

AUGUST 2015 / ₹ 100

**SEE
YOURSELF
THROUGH THE
STUPID
EYE**

CAN YOU
SMELL
WHAT
THE ROCK
ISCOOKIN'

05
QUESTIONS
FOR ANITA
DONGRE

MYTH
~~WAR OF~~
THE SEXES



STUFF
DREAMS
ARE
MADE
OF...

Aditi Rao Hydari





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FHM 100 SEXIEST WOMEN IN THE WORLD 2015



10 NEW ENTRY
TELLY BEAUTY
DRASTHI DHAMI



09 2013 RANK: 06
PENNY. PENNY. PENNY.
KALEY CUOCO

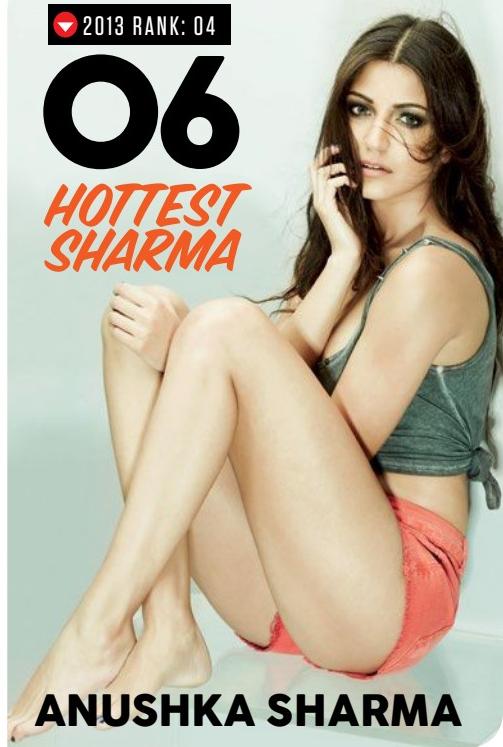
OTHER ENTRIES FOR 100 SEXIEST

08 2013 RANK: 76
B-TOWN'S 2014 SCORCHER
ILEANA D'CRUZ



▼ 2013 RANK: 04

06
HOTTEST SHARMA



ANUSHKA SHARMA

07 2013 RANK: 28
IN-YOUR-FACE-BEAUTY
NEHA SHARMA



▲ 2013 RANK: 88

05
BESTEST ABS EVER



SHRUTI HAASAN

WOMEN IN THE WORLD



▲ 2013 RANK: 72

04 NYC'S
BIGGEST
LOSS
NARGIS FAHKRI



▼ 2013 RANK: 01

03
TWO FROM THE TOP
**KATRINA
KAIF**



02
*LITTLE MISS
SUNSHINE*
**PRIYANKA
CHOPRA**

● 2013 RANK: 02



01
TAKE OVER
**DEEPIKA
PADUKONE**

▲ 2013 RANK: 03

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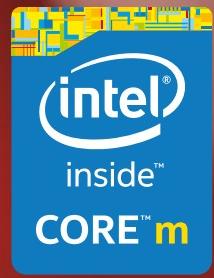
120 FINAL COUNTDOWN

9 things that women do, but men should not even try.



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ON THE COVER

Dress: Zara;
Stilettos: Christian
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EDITOR'S LETTER

For us Indians, August is perhaps synonymous with the Independence Day and the eponymous PM speech at the Red Fort. It is that... but much more. We're talking lazy long drives, intriguing conversations over lip-smacking foods, wine tasting, beer-guzzling afternoons—doing pretty much anything that doesn't call for an agenda. Planning to do something along those lines through the month? **FHM** is here to tell you how to do nothing... with élan.

Matching the sultry barometer step for step, we have Aditi Rao Hydari adorning our cover this month. She and I spoke about all things under the sun; and there was only one conclusion to draw from it—our cover girl is charming to the bone! We could not have found a better fit for August. We think we deciphered her charisma... and it's for you to read about in the cover story.

Rocky and Mayur's 'bromance' has been the talk of town for a few years now. But why we got talking to them was to know more about them, what makes them refreshing and what new magic they plan to bring to

their forthcoming show. We also chanced upon an interesting and unique concept where psychology and photography are joining hands for self-actualisation. It's a must-read!

Can you smell what the Rock is cooking? Actually, we got pretty close to figuring this one out for you. Dwayne Johnson, Hollywood superstar and wrestler extraordinaire, takes box-offices around the world into overdrive when one of his movies hits the silver-screen. Riding high on *San Andreas'* success, we caught up with the hunk and spoke to him on... well, read it for yourself!

We have Anita Dongre telling us how to look our dapper best this month. We went out on Delhi streets and spoke to the youth in a bid to understand how they interpret independence. Answers ranged from being thought-provoking to downright hilarious. Read and enjoy.

Till we meet next month...
HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY, EVERYONE!

Ashish Pratap Singh, Editor



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AUGUST 2015

ACES

**IT'S
GREAT
TO BE
A MAN**

WHO
SHE?

Age: 24
Vital Stats:
34:26:36
Born: Ahmedabad
Likes:
Reading, writing,
shopping
Twitter:
@Avanimodi
Instagram:
@AVANIMODICOM



GUJU ON THE ROCKS

The latest addition to the B-town fraternity, this babe from the dry state, in the west, will get you intoxicated in no time.

Madhur Bhandarkar's *Calendar Girls* is all set to hit the theatres, and we have more than one reason to be excited, as

Avani Modi, after her stint down south makes her debut in Bollywood. You wanna know what

happened when we got talking to her... don't you?

FHM: Hey Avani, *kem chho?*

Avani Modi: *Ekdam mast!*

Pajaama pahen ke majja ma.

Avani is an unusual name.

What does it mean?

I know... I get asked about it a lot.

It means the planet earth. It's a combination of my parents' initials, Alka and Vinod. »



"I DRINK LIKE A FISH WHEN I'M PARTYING WITH MY BEST BUDDIES."

Congratulations on your first Bollywood film. How does it feel to be one of the chosen few?

Oh I feel on top of the world! To get selected out of 1,500 girls who auditioned for the role was overwhelming. And to get to work in a film with such a strong storyline and great music... it just feels amazing.

You've worked in Tamil movies before this. How big was the transition from there to here?

Honestly, I never transformed myself totally into the south industry. It was a good learning experience for me, but my target was always Bollywood, so I kept my roots here in Bollywood.

Your short film *Gulabee* fetched you the Royal Reel Award in the Canada International Film Festival. That must have given you a lot of recognition in the Indian film industry...

Well, people did start taking notice of my acting, for sure. I'm thankful for the role I was offered. But to get into the mainstream cinema was a completely different process altogether.

***Calendar Girls* is very different from the type of movies you've worked in so far. How was the experience?**

The entire journey of *Calendar Girls* was amazing. It was a great learning experience for me, in terms of performance, style and also gossip. (Hahaha) **Madhur Bhandarkar's films are always sort of an eye**

opener for the society. Did it come as a surprise to you when you were chosen for the role?

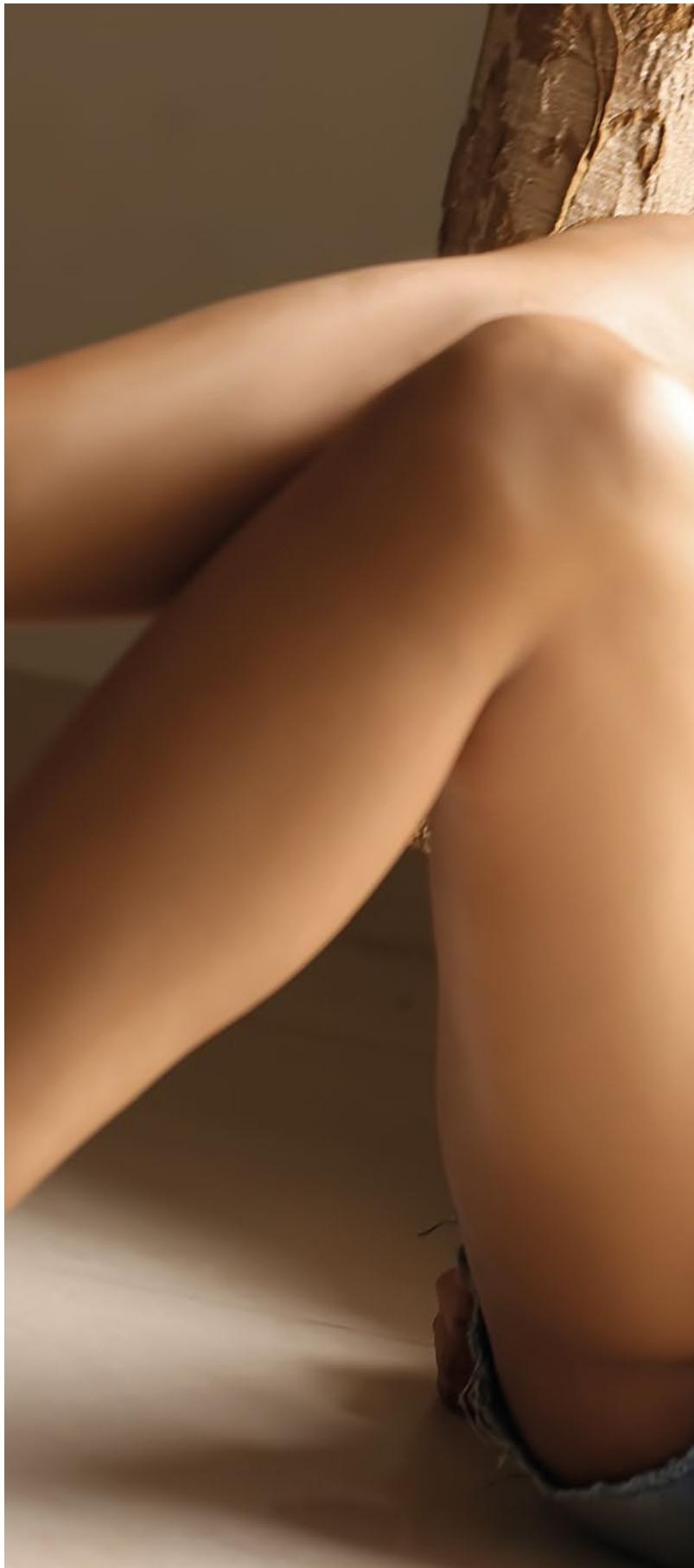
I am still in a state of shock. (*Laughs*) The character that I'm playing is completely different from who I really am. I could never think that someone could ever find me fit for such a role. But yes, Madhur ji saw his Nazneen in me and I'm ready to offer some surprises to the audience now. (*Winks*) You just need to wait and watch.

Being a Guju do you have a list of dos and don'ts? Like, do you eat meat, do you drink wine and stuff like that... Don't worry we won't share this with anyone, except with our readers.

Lol. Well, I am an open minded girl. I do whatever my heart feels is right. At the same time, I would never do something that I don't feel like doing even if you bribe me with the choicest of perks. I don't eat non-veg, not because of my Guju upbringing, but because I'm against animal killing. It's an absolutely individual choice. And yes, I drink... 'cos I don't think it's wrong. In fact, I drink like a fish when I'm partying with my best buddies.

What are your hobbies?

I love to read a lot, especially romantic novels. I write poetry and ghazals, and love to watch movies. And of course, like any other girl, shopping is an addiction. (Hahaha)





"IF I WOKE UP AS A MAN? THE FIRST THING I'D DO IS... GO 'N' SHAVE.."

Whoa! It's been a long time since we came across someone who writes poetry. Can you share something with us?

I have written this about myself-
***Khwahishon pe meri bas
itna kar tu yakeen,
Avani banker hoon main
asmaan chhoone chali***

Now that you know the meaning of my name, it'll be easier to understand the meaning- 'Have enough faith on your dreams and aspirations. I am Avani (*Earth*), yet my desires are to touch the sky.'

That's deep! Who inspires you the most while writing these? Do you have a favourite poet?

OMG! I have so many favourites. Ghalib is one of my all time favourites. I love Sahir Ludhiyanvi too. And by the way, inspiration comes from within, so don't expect to start writing poetry by just reading Ghalib. (*Wink*)

Damn. Do you drive a car? Any favourites in that category?

Yes I drive, but I'm not crazy about automobiles. My father, on the other hand, loves them. I wish to gift him a BMW someday.

Are you dating someone right now?

Of course, I am. Why would you even think that I'm not! But I do that in my lovely dreams. So,



every night I go on a romantic date.

Ya sure. So, how would you propose to a guy, if you had to?

I think my naughty smile is enough to do the job. But if I have to be filmy then I would go to the guy and say, "I don't want your son to propose to my daughter some day. So, why not make them siblings? Hahahaha... Gawd too filmy, I know!"

You bet! What is the sexiest thing about a guy?

His eyes—they should have an amazing spark in them. And then, of course, his intelligence. That's the most important thing that lasts till the end.

Aren't you being too smart with us?

OK, tell us about your most embarrassing moment.

Really? (Laughs) I had quite a few in my

childhood. Once, in school, I thought it was a free dress day and I wore a nice funky dress. But as I entered the class, I realised everyone was in their uniform, but me. They thought it was my birthday and started singing the birthday song for me. It was damn embarrassing! (Laughs)

If one day you woke up as a guy what is the first thing you'd do?

This is interesting. Wait... lemme think. The first thing I'd do is go and shave. Lol. I'll date the most beautiful girl I know and will try not to go back to sleep again. (Hahaha)

Please teach us some cuss words in Gujarati.

Ghelsappo. It means dumb-ass. Shhh... too much for now.



JOKES

ACCESS

BAD PICKUP LINES

"Do you have a map?
I just keep getting lost in
your eyes."

IT'S ALL IN THE NAME

A pregnant woman gets in a car accident and falls into a deep coma. Asleep for nearly six months, she wakes up and sees that she is no longer pregnant. Frantically, she asks the doctor about her baby. The doctor replies, "Ma'am, you had twins! A boy and a girl. The babies are fine. Your brother came in and named them." The woman thinks to herself, "Oh no, not my brother... he's an idiot!" Expecting the worst, she asks the doctor, "Well, what's the girl's name?" "Denise," the doctor says. The new mother thinks, "Wow, that's not a bad name! Guess I was wrong about my brother. I like Denise!" Then she asks the doctor, "What's the boy's name? The doctor replies, "Denephew."

DRUNK JACK, POKEY JILL

Jack and Jill were on their way home from the bar one night and Jack got pulled over by the police. The officer told Jack that he was stopped because his tail light was burned out. Jack said, "I'm very sorry officer, I didn't realise it was out, I'll get it fixed right away." Just then Jill said, "I knew this would happen when I told you two days ago to get that light fixed." So the officer asked for Jack's license and after looking at it said, "Sir your license has expired." Again Jack apologised and mentioned that he didn't realise that it had expired and would take care of it first thing in the morning. Jill said, "I told you a week ago that the state sent you a letter telling you that your license had expired." By this time Jack is a bit upset



MOUTH JOB

A guy enters a bar carrying an alligator. Says to the patrons, "Here's a deal. I'll open this alligator's mouth and place my genitals inside. The gator will close his mouth for one minute, then open it, and I'll remove my unit unscathed. If it works, everyone buys me drinks." The crowd agrees. The guy drops his pants and puts his privates in the gator's mouth. Gator closes mouth. After a minute,

the guy grabs a beer bottle and bangs the gator on the top of its head. The gator opens wide, and he removes his genitals unscathed. Everyone buys him drinks. Then he says: "I'll pay anyone \$100 who's willing to give it a try." After a while, a hand goes up in the back of the bar. It's a woman. "I'll give it a try," she says, "but you have to promise not to hit me on the head with the beer bottle."

with his wife contradicting him in front of the officer and he said in a rather loud voice, "Jill, what the fuck! Will you SHUT UP!" The officer then leaned over toward Jill and asked. "Does your husband always talk to you like that?" Jill replied, "No, sir. Not always. Only when he's drunk."

FBI ASSASSIN

The FBI had an opening for an assassin. After all the background checks, interviews and testing were done there were three finalists — two men and a woman. For the final

test, the FBI agents took one of the men to a large metal door and handed him a gun. "We must know that you will follow your instructions no matter what the circumstances. Inside the room you will find your wife sitting in a chair. Kill her!" The man said, "You can't be serious, I could never shoot my wife." The agent answered, "Then you're not the right man for this job. Take your wife and go home." The second man was given the same instructions. He took the gun and went into the room. All was quiet for about five minutes. The man came out with tears in his

eyes, "I tried, but I can't kill my wife." The agent said, "You don't have what it takes. Take your wife and go home." Finally, it was the woman's turn. She was given the same instructions—to kill her husband. She took the gun and went into the room. Shots were heard, one after another. They heard screaming, crashing, banging on the walls. After a few minutes, all was quiet. The door opened slowly and there stood the woman. She wiped the sweat from her brow. "This gun was loaded with blanks," she said. "I had to beat him to death with the chair."

BUSINESS PARTNERS

Sid and Irv are business partners. They make a deal that whichever one dies first will contact the living one from the afterlife. So Irv dies. Sid doesn't hear from him for about a year, figures there is no afterlife. Then one day he gets a call. It's Irv. "So there is an afterlife! What's it like?" Sid asks. "Well, I sleep very late. I get up, have a big breakfast. Then I have sex, lots of sex. Then I go back to sleep, but I get up for lunch, have a big lunch. Have some more sex. Take a nap. Huge dinner. More sex. Go to sleep, and wake up the next day." "Oh, my god," says Sid. "So that's what heaven is like?" "Oh no," says Irv. "I'm not in heaven. I'm a bear in Yellowstone Park."

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NEWS LAUNCH



AMBITIOUS SMARTPHONE

LG launched its first leather and DSLR feature packed smartphone, the G4, in India at a gala event at the NSCI Stadium in Mumbai. Amitabh Bachchan unveiled this successor of the super successful LG G3 that further elaborates LG's endeavour to provide high quality, consumer centric products. It's loaded with a 16 MP camera that allows manual photography. It is equipped with a 4G LTE that shall support all 4G networks in India. Priced at ₹ 51,000.



THE LATEST ADVENTURE

The German automobile giant, BMW, has brought the latest X3 xDrive 30d M Sport to the Indian shores. It is locally produced at the BMW plant in Chennai and is now available at BMW dealerships across the country. The M Sport features of the car include the M Aerodynamic package, sport seats, M leather steering wheel and a dynamic and exclusive sporty ambience. The diesel-engine X3 30d is available at ₹59,90,000 (Delhi ex-showroom)

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THE ABSOLUTE OPPOSITE OF ORDINARY

The Italian luxury car manufacturer, Maserati has announced its re-entry into the Indian market. Part of the Fiat Chrysler group, the company plans to sell four models – Quattroporte, Ghibli, Gran Turismo and GranCabrio, all priced between ₹1.14 crore to ₹2.2 crore. In the first phase, it will have dealerships opened in three cities, New Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore. All Maserati cars are being produced in and imported from its native Italy.



KINGFISHER DERBY 2015

The biggest race of the season and the second richest derby in the country, The Kingfisher Derby 2015, featured a power packed and majestic line-up of thoroughbred horses on the race track at the Bangalore Turf Club. The 28th edition of the Kingfisher Derby had the crowd on its feet, as the underdog Angel Dust outran the derby favourite Eternal Flame, to rightfully claim the coveted Silver Horse Trophy. Angel Dust's owner company, United Racing & Bloodstock Breeders, took home ₹1.5 crore as prize money.



MAXIMISING THE FUN

India's premium beer brand, Kingfisher Ultra, now, has a higher-alcohol variant, Kingfisher Ultra MAX. United Breweries Limited launched the new variant to cater to Indian beer drinkers' evolving taste for a refined premium strong beer. With a simple tagline, *Maximum Taste. Maximum Life*, Kingfisher Ultra MAX promises a bold and distinct, yet pleasant malty note. The brand will be available in 650ml and 330ml bottles with an added convenience of a ring pull-up cap. A 500ml beer-can will complete the SKU offering in the launch phase.



REVAMPED IDENTITY

Crafted on the principles of formals, fashion, fun and friends, Madura F&L's Planet Fashion has announced a new brand identity, which is sauvé and youth centric.

The new look was unveiled by India's youth icon and Bollywood actor Tiger Shroff at Taj Land's End, Mumbai. The new logo of the brand–The Infinity Symbol–featuring in red and white with a black accent symbolises endless possibilities of style and fashion in the life of the progressive Indian man.

NEWS INTERNATIONAL



LAST CONCERT LIVE

The eclectic Rock band, Grateful Dead, famous for their live performances of lengthy instrumental jams, announced on the final night of their *Fare Thee Well* tours in Chicago that this would be their last performance together, thus ending the band's 50 year career. They were considered to be the pioneering Godfathers of the jam band world. The band, formed during the era when the Beatles, the Beach Boys and the Rolling Stones dominated the scene, and their following (called 'Deadheads') were closely associated with the hippie movement. They received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007.

WHOPPING EMMY NOMINATIONS

The 5th season of the epic drama, *Game of Thrones* may be over, but it's far from staying away from news. At 24, it's won the highest number of nominations for the coveted Emmy Awards this year, including one for Outstanding Drama Series that the franchise is yet to win. HBO has continued its network's dominance at the Emmies by setting the all-time nominations record in the process with 126 this year, an up from 124 last year.



AMAZON EXPANSION IN INDIA

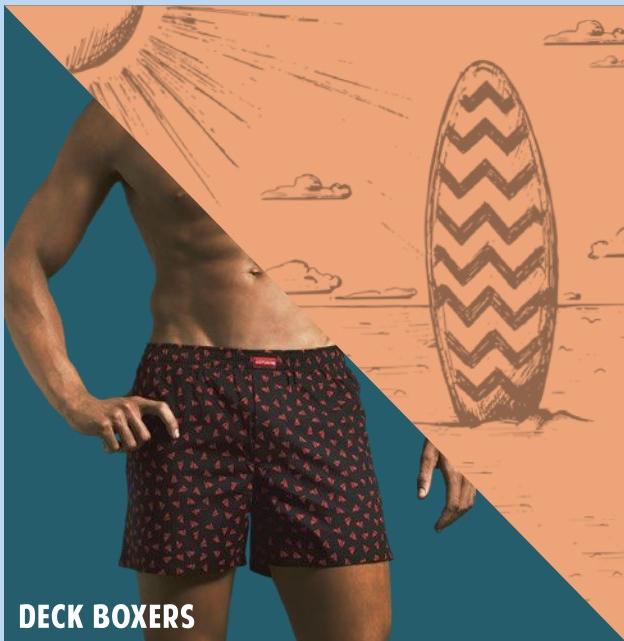
The e-commerce giant, Amazon.com, has earmarked \$5 billion to make India its biggest market outside the US. The company has started conversations with music labels and producers in an effort to source content. It plans to launch its Amazon Instant Video and subscription-based Amazon Prime services later this year. Having completed two years in India, Amazon's business is now worth at least \$ 2 billion in gross e-commerce merchandise value, including revenue from its Amazon Web Services unit.



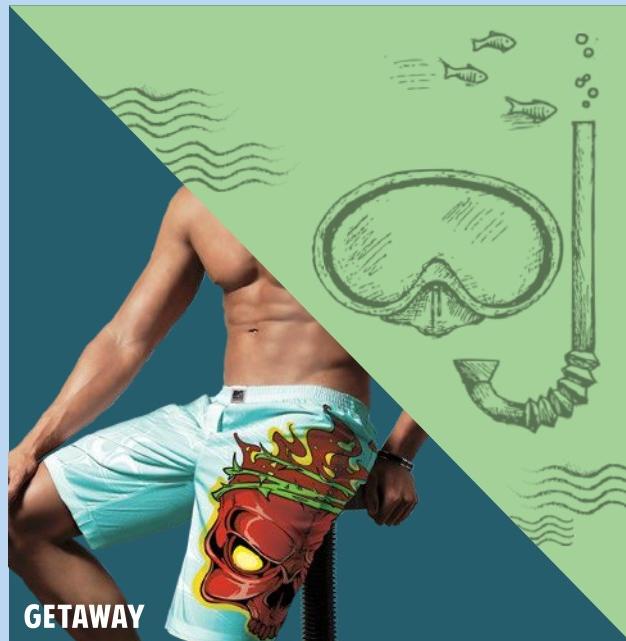
CHAMPAGNE AND BURGUNDY HERITAGE

France's wine-making regions, Champagne and Burgundy, have been granted 'World Heritage Status' by the United Nations, giving a boost to the country's drive to tourism. In Champagne, UNESCO (UN's cultural arm) recognised an area where the method of producing sparkling wine was developed in the 17th century, while Burgundy earned the status by virtue of Climats, vineyards on the slopes of Cote de Nuits and the Cote de Beaune south of the city of Dijon. France is already the world's most visited country, having welcomed 84 million tourists last year.

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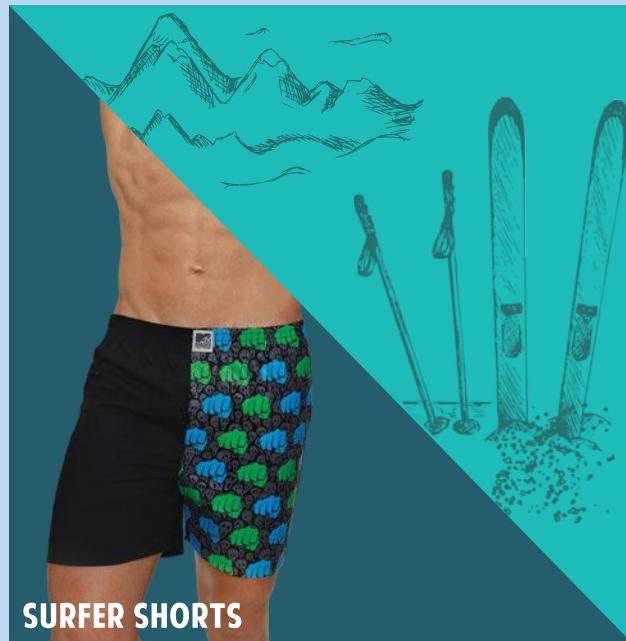
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GETAWAY



LEAP



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LETTERS

8/15

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Master of love and sex

British men are better known as leg men! Big bosom is a fantasy for most men. Strangely some men believe that bigger the b***s, smaller the brains. A tip for women: At night, let the tatas free! It is both healthy and convenient for the couple. That shall impart some fantasy pleasure too!

Mahesh Kumar, New Delhi

Dude, we're really not sure about the size and brains inverse relationship, but we're glad the tips on how to master the art of sex and love helped.

It's really a Messi place

LIONEL MESSI in FHM India! Woohooo! You guys are going places, man. From Suarez to Ronaldo and now to the one and only Messi. It was really nice to know that he recognises his Indian fans. I am a big Barcelona fan and just hope that they win the La Liga in the upcoming season. All the best, Messi. You rock! And guys, can



you please help me meet Messi whenever he comes to India next?

Amit Kumar, Mumbai

Thanks, bud. We have been following the footie superstar for a long time and finally got to talk to him. As and when he comes to India, just drop us a mail and we will arrange a meeting for you. Will that work?

From Social Media

Tarak Mehta
(1 July)

Wowwww.... Double Mazaaa

Ravi Kumar
(2 July)

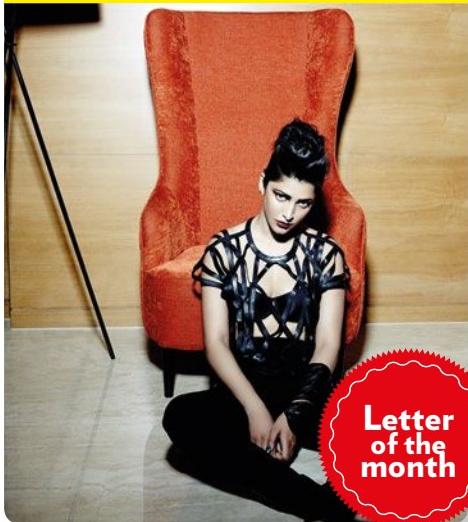
Hotness personified

Siddharth
(13 July)

Two hot to handle. #fhmindia #hot

Sabfilmyhai.com
(15 July)

Hot MTV VJ @Sophie Choudry on @fhmindia Magazine #PhotoShoot



Letter
of the
month

Glass of milk after tequila shots

The reason why I compared Shruti's intense and mature tête-a-tête with Ashish Pratap Singh with 'glass of milk' because the July 2015 issue of FHM started on an extremely intoxicating note. Val Keil's Breaking into The Playboy Mansion was no less than a '6-Tequila shots' because I am sure many of my male co-readers would be having wet dreams in days to come and hence they require a 'glass of milk' in the morning to 'cover the deficit'. And if some guys are stronger in sustenance, Sandeepa Dhar would break that misconception too. Nevertheless, Shruti, while justifying her enviable parentage, proved that genes never die.

Anju Khaterpal, Ghaziabad

Hey, Anju, you have done a full on review of the magazine like no one has ever done. Shruti truly outdid herself and we are proud of Kamal Haasan for 'reproducing' such a gem.

GATSBY

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ARE MY MOVES PUTTING ME IN THE FRIEND ZONE?

That next compliment you pay her could end any chance of ever hooking up

→ "It's never gonna happen... you waited too long to make your move and now you're in the 'friend zone'. Ross, you're mayor of the zone." And with that, modern-day philosopher and sandwich aficionado, Joey Tribbiani, created a monster. In that 1994 *Friends* episode, The One With The Blackout, he coined a term that would go on to strike fear into the hearts of all warm-blooded males around the globe: the friend zone.

Once a man is placed into a girl's friend zone, rubbing shoulders with other guys she likes hanging out with but has absolutely no interest in ever hooking up with, he's got as much chance as a bowl-bound goldfish of escaping. Like said goldfish, you can see the girl you lust after but cannot touch her; the longer you're trapped there, the fatter, sadder and smellier you get and, ultimately, you'll end up swimming around in mind-rotting circles until either another ladyfish is dropped into your environment, or you flop out on to the kitchen floor in an act of total resignation.

So it's time we found the bright green 'exit' sign in every single friend zone out there. To guide you away from danger, who better to listen to than these beautiful friends of *FHM*, primed with the advice to help you find a way out.



What the hell is the friend zone?

Jo: "You're in the friend zone if a girl likes your company but she wants to have sex with someone

else. She spends a lot of time with you but doesn't want to do the sexy dance."

Layla: "You might be the best-looking guy and have the best



personality, but you just don't have that edge."

Jo: "Or you're too easy. A girl won't want to sleep with you if you've slept with all the girls she knows."

Lana: "Or you've known each other for too long that sleeping together would just be... weird."

Why do girls have a friend zone?

Jo: "It can be a real confidence boost to have a guy that you know wants you but will never have you. All the compliments and moves he's pulling are probably the reason he's in the friend zone in the first place – a girl doesn't want to give that feeling up."

Lana: "I can't have sex with everyone. There's only so many people."

How can I avoid being put there?

Jo: "Don't always be there at her beck and call. Don't text her back straight away."

Layla: "Don't drop doing whatever it is that you're doing just because she's called you up."

Jo: "Just don't be a little lap dog and let her walk all over you. She needs to know that you have a life of your own."

Has a guy ever broken out of your friend zone?

Lana: "Argh, it was really messy. I was seeing his best friend, but he cheated on me, so the guy picked up the pieces and was super nice to me. I think that, ordinarily, if you're too nice then that's a turn off, but if that niceness comes through at the right time when I need it most, then maybe I'll start to see it differently."

Jo: "Mine was just down to booze. It was a drunken kiss, and I just laughed it off in the morning."

So it is possible to get out of the friend zone?

Layla: "It's possible, yes! There's a glimmer of hope. My best tip is to totally ignore the fact that the friend zone even exists. Guys do weird and stupid, petty things to try to get out of it. Be cool – don't be a dick."

Lana: "Yeah. Like, don't get all defensive and territorial on a night out. Don't think you can't get with other girls just because I'm there. Maybe I'll see you with another girl, feel jealous and realise that maybe I do like you in a new way."

How will a guy know he's in the friend zone?

Lana: "Apart from 'she's not having sex with him'?"

Jo: "If she ever says she'll be your wingman on a night out. Ew. And if a girl's mum is always saying, 'Oh, you two would make such a great couple.' Straight in the zone. I had that with a guy. My mum, to this day, still loves this one friend of mine and says I'll regret it when I see him marry another girl. It just made me want to sleep with him even less."

Lana: "And if your mum likes him, it means you're turning into your mum, and that's fucking frightening."



FHM

AUGUST
Girl Next Door

WHO'S
SHE?

Age: 27
From: Brooklyn
Likes: Comedy,
poker, swearing
Twitter:
@melanieiglesias
Instagram:
@Melanieiglesias





“What do you mean I’m funny?”

“Funny how?”
Well, funny like our favourite stateside comedian...

We here at *FHM* don't take the phrase 'dream woman' lightly, but Melanie Iglesias might just tick every box. The 27-year-old Brooklynite loves dogs, pizza and stand-up comedy; is a self-proclaimed potty mouth; could pull your pants down in a poker game, and is a fan of basically every sport. Oh, and did we mention she is lung-judderingly beautiful? So much so, that we couldn't resist getting her back in the mag, two years since our first shoot together.

After stealing our hearts the first time around on the *World Poker Tour* series and MTV's *Guy Code*, along with no shortage of underpants selfies on Twitter and Instagram, our Mel's now swapped New York for California and is primed to take over our worlds all over again. So we hopped on Skype to talk magic, Cher and why you should never get her angry.

Hey Melanie, you're a California newbie—what's fun to do there?
Comedy is a big part of my life, so I like to go to a bunch of comedy and improv shows. Obviously LA is great for getting into shape and health and fitness, so I go hiking a lot and I eat a lot better out here. In New York, I was eating pizza and Chinese food every day.



ACCESS

A woman with long dark hair is sitting on a bed, wearing a white lace-trimmed bra and white denim shorts. She is looking down at her lap. The background shows vertical blinds on a window.

“I have a raunchy sense of humour. I curse a lot and I like to make people feel awkward.”



You've done stand-up—what's your comedy style?

I have a raunchy sense of humour. I curse a lot and I talk a lot about things that are taboo. I like to make people feel awkward, as when I get up there they expect me to be all sweet, innocent and silly, so I give them the exact opposite. I like surprising people.

We saw on Twitter you wrote, "Something amazing is about to happen" on a scrap of paper—and then it did. Bit spooky, ain't it?

It was the most incredible thing I've ever seen in my entire life. I'm working on my own TV show that I get to produce, and less than 24-hours later I found out we were going through with the deal. But stuff like that always happens to me—I'll say something and then a few days later it will come into existence.

Do you believe in magic, then?

I believe in miracles, I do.

Do you believe in ghosts?

Well, I've never seen one...

Do you believe in aliens?

I do believe there's life on other planets, for sure. I just don't know exactly which galaxy they're in.

Most importantly, do you believe in life after love?

Life is love. When you start loving your life, love comes to you.

Sorry, that was just a cheap excuse to quote Cher.

I love Cher! I was talking to my sister about who I would most love to have brunch with, and I picked Cher as my number one woman. She's hilarious.

We hear you're a fan of UFC?

I love anything that involves competition. I used to like to gamble, which is terrible, but when I worked in Vegas a lot; I used to love sports betting. That's actually how I learned about most of the sports I know about. But I love UFC because it's the purest form of competition.

Would you back yourself in the Octagon?

I fight dirty, so I'd never get in the Octagon. I'm so tiny that I'd have to pick up whatever's around me to defend myself. I weigh about 100lbs, so it can't be a clean fight; I'd get demolished.

Remind us never to wind you up...

Don't, because I can promise it won't be a clean fight.

HOW I DID IT...

ROBBIE MADDISON, 33, RECORD-BREAKING FMX MOTORCYCLE STUNT RIDER

I've wanted to be Evel Knievel since I was old enough to ride. All I ever wanted was to be a world-renowned motorcycle rider. **I got into some pretty shady shit as a teenager.** Growing up in Australia, I was hanging out with guys who were going nowhere. All we did was party and all the stuff that comes with that. I hit the bottom of the barrel before I realised life could be better.

My dad saved me. He was hard in a loving way. When I was 16, he kicked me out and said, "I'm not gonna wipe your ass for the rest of your life. Go and make it happen, son."

At first I thought it was bullshit. Then, one day, I was out of my mind at a motorbike event and I thought, "Why the hell am I hanging out with these losers?"

The next day I bought a motorbike. And instead of going out and getting wasted at the weekend, I got up early to practice on my bike. From that day I started having fun.

The first thing I ever jumped was a football field. When I did it I started to believe in my dream for the first time. Before I knew it I was backflipping over Tower Bridge.

My mates call me Mando. It's because of my surname, but it's also because they think I'm a crazy bastard. They're right.

Being Daniel Craig's stuntman in Skyfall was gnarly. There can't be many people who can say they've driven a bike at full speed over the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul.

Dream wild. That's really what I'm doing, making all these daydreams and big ideas I have a reality, bringing them to life.

The one thing I'd like to jump before I die? The Grand Canyon. I mean, you can fly from the UK to LA non-stop, so I'm sure jumping over that little thing isn't too hard.

I never wear red. I used to have this red motorbike gear, and whenever I wore it I came home with concussion. When I moved to the US, my sponsor had a red kit and I decided to wear it. I rode better than I had ever ridden, but the next day I had a huge crash.

I don't think when I'm in the air. It's better to allow yourself to be consumed by the moment. The second you think about things, they start going wrong.

Flying through the air with a bike between your legs is like no other feeling. The wind rushing over your face and neck, the bike beneath you. It's freaking gnarly. But you can't think about breaking records. If you do, you're doing it for the wrong reasons.

I've got a foam pit the size of an Olympic swimming pool in my backyard. The neighbours didn't know what to make of it... until they saw me doing backflips into it.

The furthest I've ever jumped? 394ft over San Diego Bay. Five seconds in the air. It felt like longer, especially as I saw the boats underneath me. I was like, "Hooollly shiiiiit."

The biggest mistake you can make is doing something

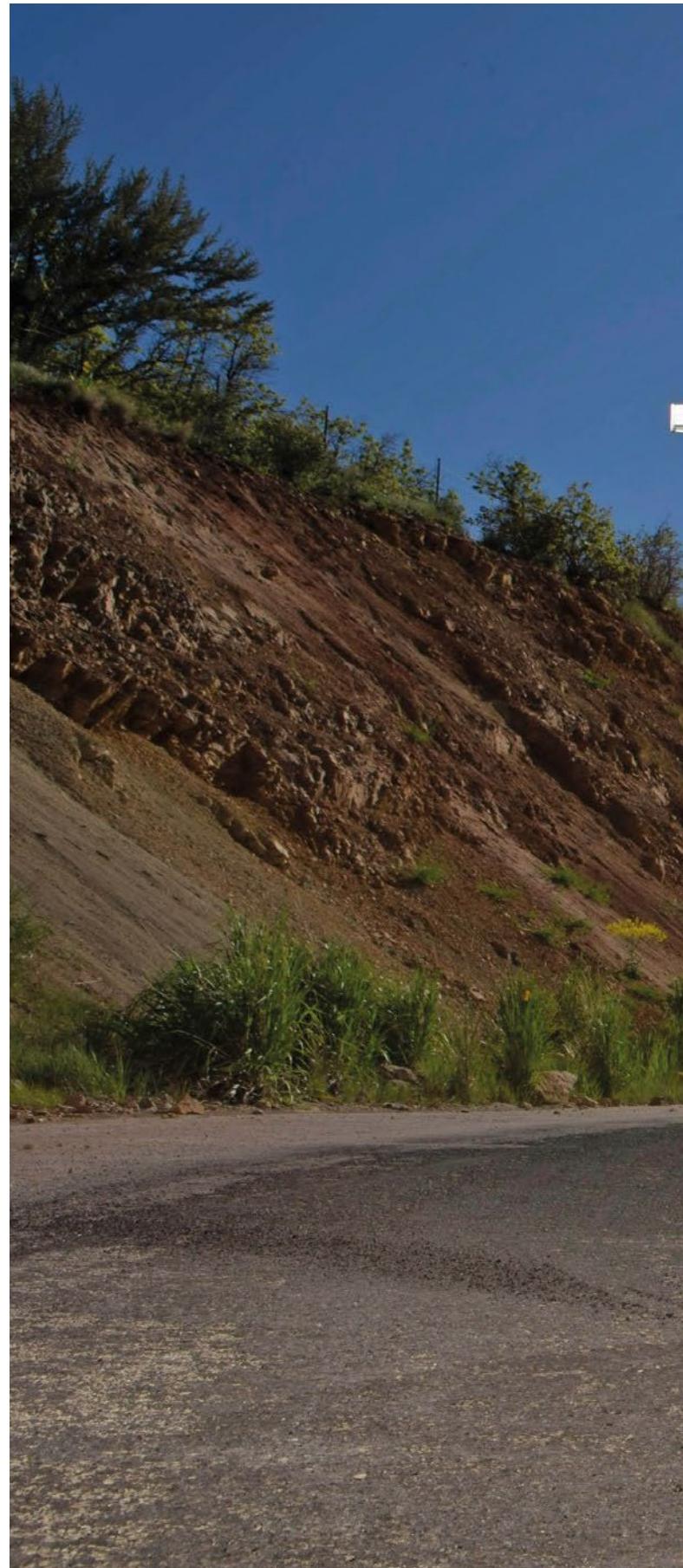
risky when you're not ready. You have to know you can do what you're about to do. If you don't, you can die.

I've seen one of my best buddies die. Before his jump he complained about the wind, light and ramp but he did it anyway. The universe was screaming at him not to jump.

Be accountable when anything goes wrong. Learn from your mistakes.

Face your fears, live your dreams. That's my motto.

On Any Sunday: The Next Chapter, brought to you by Red Bull Media House and Skullcandy, is available on iTunes. For more information, go to onanysundayfilm.com





Words: Matt Blake



How was it to gain independence in AUGUST?

As India celebrates its 69th Independence Day on the 15th, we unravel how it was for other countries in the eighth month of the year!

03 PAKISTAN (14TH AUGUST)

Being a part of India, Pakistan faced the same problems and were separated from their neighbours due to religious sentiments. With the pact signed, Pakistan celebrates its independence a day before India does.

Deaths: Millions

Year of Independence: 1947

Rulers: Britain

Treaty: Shimla Pact

***World Bank ranking in terms of GDP:** 44th,

USD 232 billion

04 INDONESIA (17TH AUGUST)

The proclamation

of Indonesian

Independence Day was announced on 17th August, marking the start of diplomatic and armed resistance of the Indonesian National Revolution fighting against the Netherlands and pro-Dutch civilians. After the World War II, Indonesia declared its independence and the Netherlands officially acknowledged this in 1949. Interestingly UN recognises 27th December as Indonesia's independence day.

Deaths: 108,000+

Year of Independence: 1945

Rulers: Netherlands

Treaty: Dutch Indonesia Round Table Conference

***World Bank ranking in terms of GDP:** 16th,

USD 868 billion

06 MALAYSIA (31ST AUGUST)

Hari Merdeka, the national day, of Malaysia celebrates the independence of the Federation of Malaya from the British colony in 1957. The efforts for their liberation was spearheaded by Tunku Abdul Rahman, who later became the first Prime Minister of Malaysia.

Deaths: 16,000+

Year of Independence: 1957

Rulers: Britain

Treaty: Federation of Malaya Independence Act, 1957

***World Bank ranking in terms of GDP:** 35th,

USD 313 billion



Social media is full of nonsense, news, information and people, but who are the ones worth following? *FHM* tells you the accounts to click 'Follow' on...

104 Million followers

**FACEBOOK'S FAVOURITE
CRISTIANO RONALDO**

Arguably the best footballer of this generation, C-Ron has more records and awards to his name than his age and the verified Facebook account of the footie superstar just adds to his plethora of fans from different parts of the world. CR7 too acknowledges his fans with regular posts about his new ads, pictures from training and vacation spots. It was the pop sensation Shakira who Ronaldo surpassed to become Facebook's favourite!



37 million followers

**YOUTUBE'S VIDEO MASTER
PEWDIEPIE**

Youtube gaming star, Felix Arvid Ulf Kjellber, better known as PewDiePie, is the Swedish producer of Let's Play Videos. The main focus of his videos is his commentary and reactions to various games he plays. Unlike straight up reviews, his main aim is to share gaming moments.



72.2 million followers

**TWITTER'S
TWEETIEPIE
KATY PERRY**

Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson, better known as Katy Perry, joined Twitter in 2009 and is a regular on the platform. From raising social awareness issues to having fun with friends, she keeps her 72 million followers informed of her well-being. Can a superstar get any closer than this with her fans? We think not!

38.5 million followers

**INSTAGRAM QUEEN
KIM KARDASHIAN**



Nobody knows why she is popular (*A very famous video might have helped*). Love her or hate her but you can't ignore her. She's always in the news (*Did we just hear someone 'breaking the internet'?*). She released a book titled *Selfish* which is filled with selfies taken over nine years. Her self-portraits have built up this strong fan base.



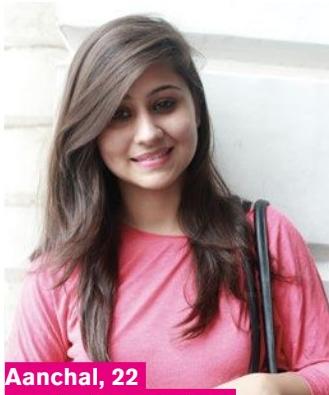
13 million followers

**PINTEREST'S
INTEREST
JOY CHO**

Launched in 2005, Oh Joy, the graphics design studio of Joy Cho, includes various licensed product lines, how-to lifestyle videos and a daily blog on fashion, food, design and joyful moments from everyday life. She is an active Pinterest member and gives joy to everyone by 'pinning' things of interest. With more than 12k pins and 13 million followers, the Los Angeles based blogger's things of beauty are seriously a joy forever.

WHAT DOES INDIA

As Independence Day approaches, we asked the youth



Aanchal, 22
psychology student

"The only country where men are OK with physical intimacy in a relationship but want a virgin to marry."



Aditya, 21
merchandiser

"India's pulse surges, vibrates and makes you feel alive. After all, it's a strange and wonderful world."



Aishwarya, 21
writer

"I feel India's the world's biggest Rubik's cube. A mystery that I'd love to solve."



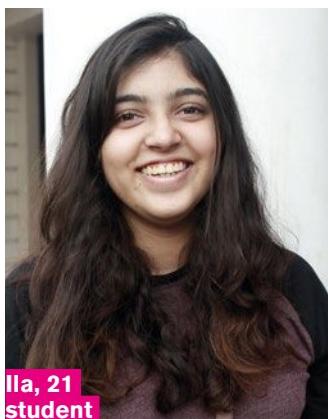
Ajitabh, 21
aspiring civil servant

"Nationalism is *jaan*, politicians without *kaan*, whatever you say about my country, *Mera Bharat Mahaan*."



Gurkirat, 20
videographer

"India is way beyond than just cricket and curries. We give a new meaning to the term *mouse-charmers*."



Ila, 21
student

"Billion people with billion Gods, so everyone has his/her own personal superhero!"



Massih, 22
aspiring filmmaker

"India is about fighting for women's rights and bargaining for cheap street foods."



Mansha, 21
amateur fashion stylist

"India is a one-stop travel destination from villages to metropolitan cities. Every place has its own beauty."



Prakriti, 21
stylist

"Some might find it off, but I like how I can have endless conversations with roadside *chai-walas*."



Parth, 20
fine art photographer

"I love how we have a badass youth population that has the ability to take the world by its tail."



Ragini, 19
business student

"I love how everything co-exists here. Right from judgmental aunties to how we live with a constant soundtrack."



Prakash, 21
social worker

"I love how people don't need a lot of money to see beautiful places in the country."

MEAN TO THE YOUTH?

what the country means to them. *FHM brings to you their voice...*



Cheena, 31
expert strategic alliances

"India is more than just cows, dogs and beggars on the roads and all that jazz one sees in Hollywood."



Ayush, 21
technical consultant

"It may have a huge population but India means home to me. It's where I'm from. It's who I am."



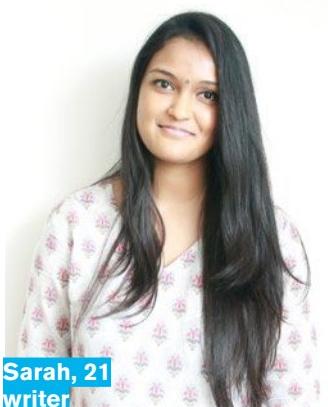
Akshmin, 23
writer

"Everyone thinks they're the king of the universe. Heard of the phrase, *Tu jaanta nahi main kaun hoon?*"



Drishti, 21
writer

"The idea of 'adjustment' remains like a second name to the country, and that's what keeps India going."



Sarah, 21
writer

"Getting a fix for my faucet by calling my neighbours 'trusted plumber', any time, is what I love about India."



Sarthak, 21
retail & marketing manager

"It's like a neverending blockbuster movie with many directors, producers and largely several actors."



Shraddha, 19
aspiring broadcast reporter

"My country is a puzzle, I am still waiting to break the code."



Siddhartha, 31
aspiring novelist

"Whatever I can imagine, I can make that happen. That's possible only in India."



Ruchi, 19
freelance writer

"It's a social media paradox: links of rapes and scams shared with desi friends and BuzzFeed glorifying tales."



Siddhima, 20
aspiring filmmaker

"60 years ago those guys fought hard so that today we can sit in our beds and watch TV."



Sitara, 20
fine art photographer

"With a variety in folk music, one could almost get tangled in the nativity of the folklores of India."



Tanvi, 22
psychology student

"I love the irony of the country. Legal drinking age is 25 but still teens party harder than most adults."



01 CALENDAR GIRLS

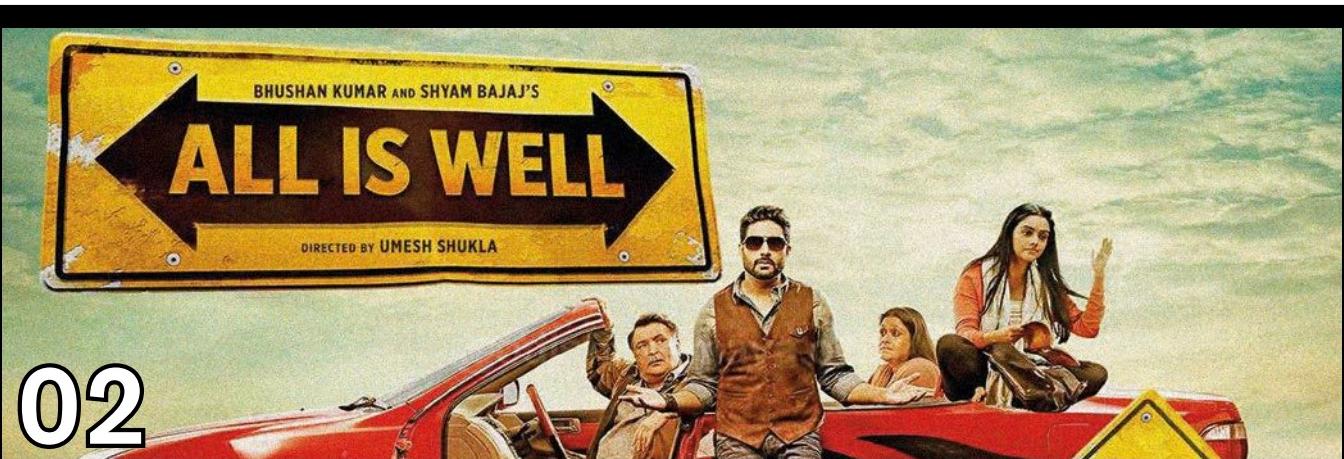
Drama

Madhur Bhandarkar's latest movie on glamour and glitz features 5 models and their lives after featuring in famous calendars. The cast was kept under wraps

for a long time and there was even a non-disclosure agreement signed by the crew. Despite *Heroine* going for a toss, Madhur's idea of unveiling the dark reality

behind the glamour world has not died down. With five new faces, we hope that better result awaits this time.

Out on 7th August (Possibly delayed)



02 ALL IS WELL

Drama

The forthcoming family drama has been directed by Umesh Shukla of *OMG—Oh My God!* fame. Abhishek Bachchan, Asin, Rishi Kapoor and Supriya Pathak are in the lead roles as the

movie is said to be tackling a thorny issue with a social message for the audience. This is kind of a comeback movie for Asin after *Khiladi 786* in 2012. With Chintuji and Supriya in the mix, the

acting part is going to be top notch and a lot can be expected from the movie. Though there isn't much hype about it on social media.

Out on 21st August

03

Action-Drama

BROTHERS

Dharma Productions' upcoming release is the official remake of the 2011 Hollywood flick *Warrior*. Starring Akshay Kumar, Siddharth Malhotra, Jacqueline Fernandez and Jackie Shroff in the lead, the story revolves around two brothers and their problems. Akshay, a physics teacher, comes to know of his daughter's illness and in order to get her operated upon, joins a fighting competition of which Siddharth is also a part. The brothers come face-to-face in the final as destiny makes them stand opposite each other. Remakes have always been a bummer for Bollywood, but we can only hope for Akshay and Siddharth to give a good 'fight'!

*Out on 14th August***REMAKE
TIME**

Brothers is an official remake of the 2011 Hollywood flick *Warriors*.

04

Action

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: ROGUE NATION

The fifth installment of the American spy action thriller, *Mission Impossible*, series is written and directed by Christopher McQuarrie. Tom Cruise is back to playing IMF agent, Ethan Hunt as the agency comes under threat from the syndicate, an organisation of assassins and rogue operatives who kill to order. Faced with the IMF's disbandment, Hunt assembles his team for their final and most difficult mission—to prove the syndicate's existence and bring the organisation down.

Out on 7th August**05**

Thriller

PHANTOM

Kabir Khan comes up with the Indian counter-terrorism thriller starring Saif Ali Khan and Katrina Kaif. The movie revolves around the post 26/11 attacks in Mumbai and the protagonist's journey to seek justice. It's an adaptation of crime author Hussain Zaidi's recently released book, *Mumbai Avengers*. Zaidi has also been involved with the director for the screenplay writing. Saif and Kat are playing secret agents and went to learn Kurdish and Arabic for the flick. Kabir's *Ek Tha Tiger* also involved terrorism and secret agents and *Phantom* too ventures in the same category.

Out on 28th August

Words: Sudhakar Jha

06

Best on PS3

Batman: Arkham Knight Completes The Epic Trilogy

Rocksteady's *Arkham* trilogy comes to a fitting end with *Knight*. The story is truly the best part of the game, and its greatest strength lies in its consistently pushing the players forward.

With the 2009 *Batman: Arkham Asylum*, Rocksteady Studios created a new benchmark for superhero and comic book adaptation games, and went on to set an example for action/open world character experiences. And then, in 2011, *Batman: Arkham City* hit the scene and proved that Rocksteady's star was on the rise, and in the eyes of Batman fans, they could do no wrong. It was needless to say that the

anticipation from *Knight* was sky rocketing high, with a fear of the makers faltering on the final front. So is the game the pinnacle of the franchise?

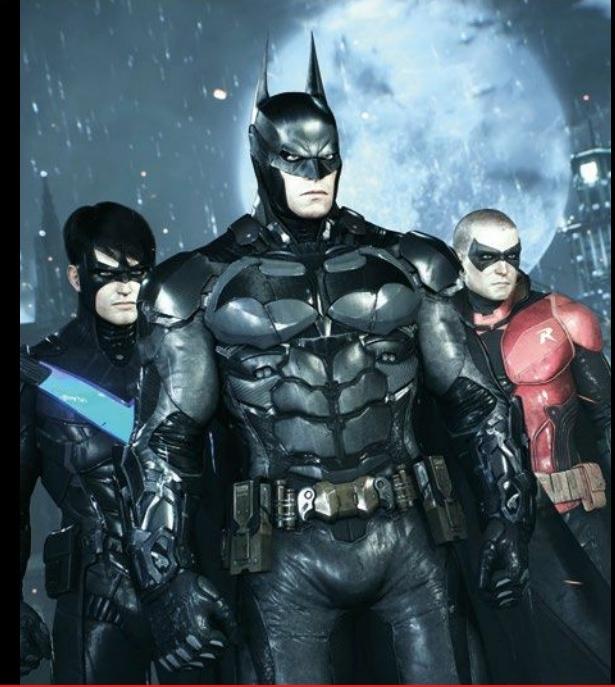
GAMEPLAY

Batman's come a long way since the days of *Arkham Asylum*. He's got a lot more firepower now. The suit he wears in *Arkham Knight* makes him look like some kind of mechanised warrior. But Scarecrow has grown up, too. He also has a new arsenal at



BATMAN HAS COME A LONG WAY SINCE ARKHAM ASYLUM. HE HAS GOT MORE FIREPOWER NOW





his disposal. Gotham City is now filled with tanks and buzzing drones that monitor the skies.

The game is loaded with villains, actually, including the one that gives the game its name-Arkham Knight himself. His identity is the game's greatest mystery. There are some tense story beats and moving events, but you have two primary goals-to stop Scarecrow's evil toxin plot and to confront and unmask the Arkham Knight.

It is the introduction of Batmobile that's making news and for the most part, having the Batmobile on call enlarges the action. Throwing in some awesome action movie chase sequences and giving a great, fast method of getting from point A to B. However, it's in the latter stages that you feel it is getting monotonous. You're frequently forced to take part in vehicular battles against remotely manned drones. In spite of the upgrades, the Batmobile earns over time-EMP blasts, the ability to hack enemy drones, and so forth-the Batmobile battles never become more interesting as they seem to go on forever. Despite the introduction of Batmobile, the free-flowing combat system returns with a few new tricks, while zip-lining and gliding show some upgrades as well. You'll also be at the mercy of upgrade points to improve these disciplines within the WayneTech menu system.

Arkham Knight introduces a new way to take out a gang of enemies with the fear system, which becomes available

after a successful silent takedown is performed. Fear takedowns let you chain together attacks in gorgeous slow-motion fashion, allowing Batman to neutralise the opposition before they have time to react.

The game's genius lies in the missions and sub missions, which feel like a part of the overall game rather than being a blip on the map that need to be cleared just for the sake of it. The three main stories are team-ups with Catwoman, Nightwing and Robin, in addition to the main game's narrative.

VISUALS

The visuals on PS3 are astonishing, to say the least. Gotham's larger-than-life but creepy environment is a sight to behold. You would sometimes want to leave the console and admire your surroundings in this world. Rocksteady has nailed it with the technicalities. Seeing Gotham as a dazzling playground, where neon lights pierce through the rain and mist; it takes a single glimpse to tell you that this is a city in need.

VERDICT

It's never been more fun to be the Bat, and it's never been easier to perform his badass set of moves. Despite the pressure and delays, ultimately it rises to the occasion. Its powerful brand of storytelling feels epic, important and will definitely surprise you more often than not. It's a satisfying end to the best Batman game ever made.

Entertain your brain

August

07

Music

REFUGE IN MUSIC

Jive to *FHM's* Top 5 music albums of July. There's something for everyone, every mood and every split in your personality.

1

ALBUM: *Late Nights*

ARTIST: *Jeremih*

GENRE: *R&B/Hip Hop*



The high pitched singer with an elastic vocal range has been compared to Smoky Robinson for his voice quality. So, this third album from the artist is an essential album to own, for all R&B fans. The three singles, *Don't Tell' em*, *Planes* and *Tonight Belongs to U!* have already been doing rounds for a few months now.



2

ALBUM: **Everything is 4**
 ARTIST: **Jason Derulo**
 GENRE: **Dance Pop**

ATLANTIC RECORDS



A follow up to Derulo's *Talk Dirty*, this album is about impact, drawing the most inclusive and powerful emotions out. He makes a deliberate shift from R&B to an audacious pop style with relative ease. The single *Want to Want Me* stands out as a crisp, feel-good blast of infatuated power-pop.

Christian Letts, the guitarist for Edward Sharpe and Magnetic Zeroes, moves away from his main band's cheery campfire sing-alongs in his first solo album, *Hold Fast*. It is largely an acoustic exploration of faith and sin. The entire album is heavily affected by the overproduction of Marcus Mumford's lean studio shine.



SIDE A: 1. The Keeper 2. Charles de Gaulle 3. The Oath 4. Boxing Day 5. Copy
 SIDE B: 6. La Mer 7. Emeralds 8. Skipping Stones 9. Twenty Seven Arrows

VAGRANT RECORDS

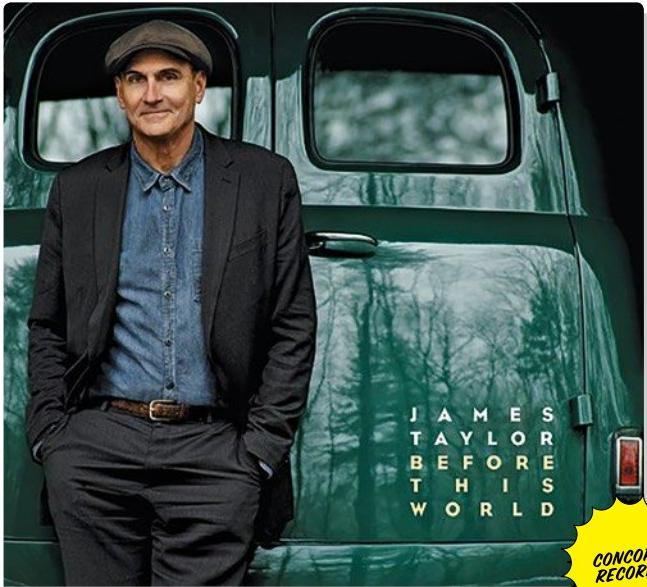
4

ALBUM: **Hold Fast**
 ARTIST: **Christian Letts**
 GENRE: **Indie Rock**

3

ALBUM: **Before this World**
 ARTIST: **James Taylor**
 GENRE: **Folk, Country**

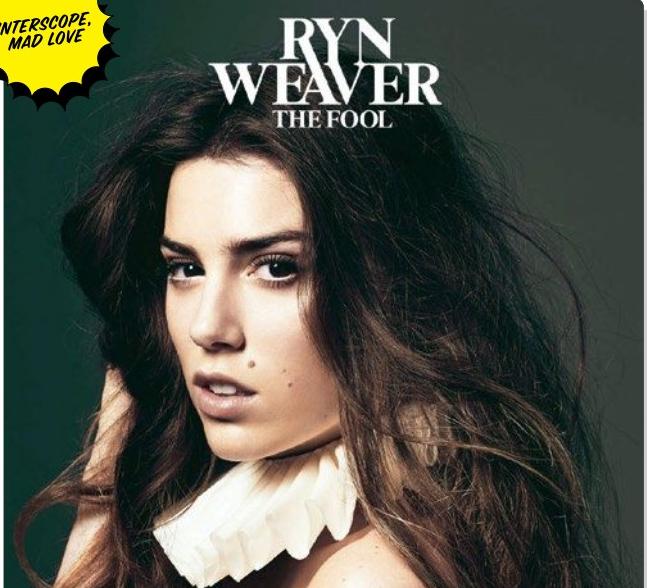
CONCORD RECORDS



For all those who'd been wondering where the guy disappeared for over 13 years, this is the answer. With his most direct studio record in many years, Taylor infuses simplicity with his quintessential nostalgic mood and exhibits a renewed focus on his voice and guitar.

The much hyped pop newcomer, Ryn Weaver, burst onto the scene last year with her electrifying single *Octahate*. The album hasn't really been able to rise up to the levels of the single, yet these wistful traditional travelling songs carry some intense, heart pounding standouts.

INTERSCOPE, MAD LOVE

**5**

ALBUM: **The Fool**
 ARTIST: **Ryn Weaver**
 GENRE: **Alternative Pop**

Naked News takes the phrase 'nothing to hide' a bit too seriously!

08
News

WHAT THE HELL IS **naked NEWS**

News is an acronym for North, East, West and South. So, when it comes to Naked News, it means naked from all sides possible. Haven't even heard of it? FHM tells you what the hell it is!

NOTHING TO HIDE

Naked News bills itself to be the programme with 'nothing to hide'. It literally means it. So, do they believe in not concealing information? Actually not... they're closer to what the first thing that comes to mind showing their TV presenters who don't hide anything.

BARE IT ALL

It's a very real news programme where 10 beautiful lady anchors undress while presenting latest stories from around the globe.

IT AIN'T ON TV

Don't start flipping through channels just yet. It's a subscription based website with real life news telecast that runs daily for 25 minutes and 6 days a week.

NOTHING COMES FREE

The website charges \$14.95 for a one-month subscription for daily episodes and fleshy archives.

FROM THE MAPLE LAND

The show is prepared in Toronto, Canada, and is the mastermind of Fernando Pereira and Kirby Stasyna to start this unique website.

IT'S PERSONAL

Naked News goes further to connect with its subscribers by letting them select an anchor and she signs an autograph with a pre-selected personalised comment. (*Too good to be true!*)

THE CUP STORY

All the 'anchors' fit the same pattern. The same designer template. Uniformly fit, slim, tanned, long-tressed, and no body hair in sight and firm-breasted (*Owing more to science than nature*). Research at Boobpedia reveals that they're mostly of the C-cup sisterhood.

FAME GAME

The company projects a six-figure monthly audience of the show. It's famous, people!

BABE RECRUIT

The show's anchors are selected through classified ads in alternative newspapers in Toronto.

LINGUA FRANCA

Alongside the English news, there is Naked News Japan. Additionally, Spanish and Italian versions were also started.





L'Officiel India
Luxury fashion bible

ONLY THE BEST READERS

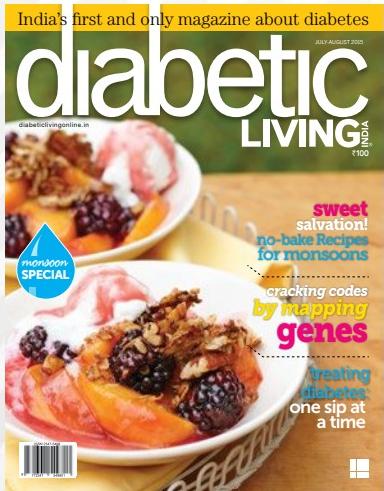
From fashion to luxury; from street-smart to business-savvy; from lifestyle to health-conscious—we provide an all-round reading experience that transcends knowledge and luxury.



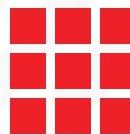
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India's first and only magazine about diabetes



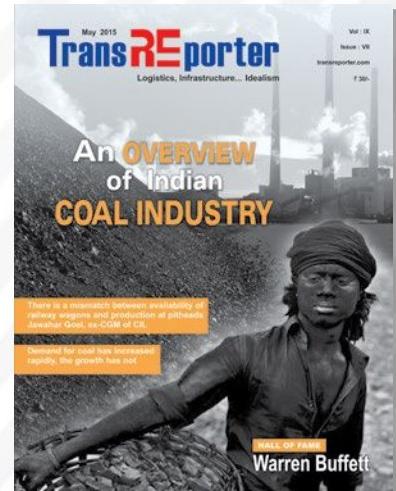
TCG MEDIA

WE HAVE FOUR BUT WE ARE #1

Under a robust umbrella, the company's prowess lies in creating unity in diversity.

THE Q FACTOR

We understand the value of quality & quantity, striking the perfect balance between excellence and the number game.



Transreporter
Logistics, infrastructure... Idealism

FHM: Tasting different kinds of food, travelling and braving ghosts for a living with your bosom-buddy, you are living the plot of a perfect Bollywood movie, life couldn't get any better, could it?

Rocky & Mayur: Yes it could, my best friend could be a beautiful, charming lady. Instead we have each other. So things can always be better. But hey, no complaints!

Wildest thing you have ever done—strip tease maybe?

Apart from eating grasshoppers and worms, exploring the upper reaches of Siachen Glacier, being in an operational submarine, on an aircraft carrier, bitten by a snake on camera, I think the

wildest thing we have ever done is giving up very lucrative jobs in the corporate world abroad and taking a chance on TV. Nothing comes close. As for the striptease, that's coming up on our new show on NDTV Good Times soon. I just hope the world is ready to see us topless.

You have consumed over 2 tonnes of food in all visiting 1500 destinations in 250 towns! Why are you not extinct yet? The last we heard, only dinosaurs and mammoths were capable of eating such copious amounts of food.

We have consumed a TOTAL of 2 tonnes of regional food each. As for being extinct, I had an uncle who once said, "Whatever does not kill you,



Adventures

Take a large teaspoon of food; add two tablespoons of travel to it; mix it with adrenaline, adventure; garnish it with a pinch of childhood friendship and voila! You now have the 'bromantic duo'—Rocky & Mayur ready.

GALORE!



Rocky and Mayur have been neighbours and best friends since 1976.

makes you fat". So that's what has happened, we haven't died... yet, but we have become rather huge.

Have you created some sort of a record?

We have put out a challenge. We claim that no one in the history of the world, before us or as of today, has eaten more types of Indian regional food as we have. No one has yet disputed it or challenged us on this front... yet. So yes, I think this is a record and one that we feel will last for many years to come.

You guys have been through thick and thin. Have you two ever been mistaken for a couple?

Yes, quite a few times and there are a lot of toothless people out there who have made that mistake. Having said that though, no, we are not a couple. We are both happily married to lovely ladies and we both have a couple of kids each. An elder daughter and a younger son for us both.

Given your travel escapades, you guys must have been in numerous awkward but hilarious situations. Care to share some?

We were travelling through the heart of Naxal country on a very lonely, thickly forested highway late one night. It was freezing cold and we decided to stop for a late dinner (*around midnight*) and some tea at the only dhabha we found in the forest. It was on the edge of a small village and seemed deserted. When we entered the thatch-roofed dhabha, we saw a bunch of men all wrapped up in blankets looking very dangerous huddled around a fire. We were all really worried as we thought we had stumbled upon a gathering of Naxalites. They kept staring at us and even though we were gripped with fear, we managed to eat. After an hour, as we all were getting up, the dishwasher in the kitchen dropped a large pile of dishes. There was a loud crash and we panicked. We all ran for our lives and as soon as we were out in the open, we realised the other lot had run out from the other door as well. As it turned out, it was a group of drivers who had parked in the village and they had been as

scared of us through the meal as we were of them. We all then went back, had a good laugh, some hot tea and shared stories about how terrified we had been of each other.

Travel to eat or eat to travel—what comes first?

The best food never comes to you. You have to travel to find it as exploration is synonymous with travelling. For a food explorer, travel and food are completely cohesive. It's impossible to distinguish what you're exactly doing. What we always say though, is that we are food travellers so both these words go together, can't have one without the other.

One destination that you would never want to revisit?

Every place that we have been to has left us thirsting for more and we would always love to go back. However, we did a show on the Siachen Glacier where the temperatures dropped to below minus 30 Degrees. It was perhaps the toughest and most difficult show we have ever done and hats off to the brave personnel of the Indian Armed Forces who serve there. Though the place was scenic in itself, we may not want to go back there in a hurry.

Tell us more about Game on Singapore, which is hitting small-screens soon.

Game on Singapore is a battle for supremacy between four teams that are made up of very interesting characters. These characters have to complete tasks that range from finding and eating some amazing Singaporean foods, helping in old traditional Singapore kitchens, completing a series of tasks through the back alleys and hidden markets of Singapore... and a lot more. Catch it on NDTV Good Times every Friday at 8 pm.

If you were to be immortalised as a comic character, which one would you choose and why?

ROCKY: Bugs Bunny. He's relaxed, laid back, always has the right answer to any situation and I love the line "What's up, Doc?"

MAYUR: Popeye, because of his deep love for spinach and his amazingly astute take on life... always.



Words: Akshmin Kaur

Entertain your brain

August

CROSSING WAYS WITH **THE S-CROSS**

Maruti Suzuki's new baby is all set to be launched in August in India. We got to experience it firsthand in an exclusive automotive experience.

0-100 in 11.3 seconds, with a 20kmpl mileage is the icing on the cake!



10

Cars

For anybody who gets a jaunty kick out of that perfect swirl of wine tickling their taste buds, like myself, Nashik is nothing short of a dream destination. But when we were invited by Maruti Suzuki for the NEXA Experience, we were more curious about the next car we were about to drive than the vineyards of the town. NEXA Experience stands for New Exclusive Automotive Experience, an initiative by Maruti Suzuki to offer their premium customers an exclusive experience of luxury, and to ensure that the whole car buying process is completely hi-tech with the after-sales service as smooth as ordering a pizza.

INTERIORS

The NEXA experience kick-started with the S-Cross, the first crossover from MSIL. With high expectations we started our drive, and, as they say, first impressions usually stick to you the longest. As soon as you step into the car, the first thing you notice is the fit and finish of the dashboard. It comprises of a seven-inch infotainment system that comes with a touch panel that, in turn, doubles up as a high definition TFT screen for the rear-view camera and parking sensor. It's moulded in top-notch plastic. The leather upholstery is both comfortable and chic. Practicality of the cabin is what catches your fancy next. Loads of trays and cup-

holders to keep your things intact, it's quite capable of carrying your big 1-litre mineral water bottles for those long drives. And those in the passenger seats can't complain either, because the length of the car is around 4.5 metres, which means there is no compromise on leg-space or headroom. And the rear AC vents do their job well to keep heads cool. So, none of you married folks need to worry about your mother-in-law cribbing about your car or her arthritis.

EXTERIORS

The exterior design hosts impressive HID headlamps with LEDs, robust roof rails, stylish fog lamps and 16-inch alloy wheels that come packed with disc brakes. The car boasts of some garnishing silver skid plates along with the aggressive front grille, supporting it with mirrors, designed to flatter the aerodynamics. Our only point of concern? It has to be the look of the car. Design could be ions sharper and we think that it might get out of the league too soon for its not-too-sharp curves.

ENGINE AND DRIVE

The Maruti Suzuki S-Cross will be available in two variants - the DDiS 320, which is a 4-cylinder, 1.6 litre engine and the DDiS 200, which is again 4 cylinders but with a 1.3 litre engine. We opted for the DDiS 320, which is the biggest engine to date by Maruti Suzuki. The engine delivers a good torque of 320Nm@ 1750 and comes equipped with a Variable Geometry Turbocharger with the best-in-class power of 120 PS. Renault, Ford & Hyundai folks, are you listening?

The drive quality is quite impressive. With minimum cabin noise, long

drives will be a real bliss, especially with your family. The car really surprised us on tight corners as it handled them really well, in spite of the speed doing 70 kmph. The 0-100 shootout in an impressive 11.3 seconds shows what the DDiS 320 is really capable of. The return of a good mileage of over 20kmpl is like the icing on the cake. Although we had few initial niggles with the clutch, as it doesn't release as smoothly as it's supposed to, leading to unexpected stalling. But we got used to it after a certain amount of time.

“**THE NEXA EXPERIENCE ENSURES THAT THE BUYING PROCESS IS AS SMOOTH AS ORDERING A PIZZA.**”

CONCLUSION

The S-Cross carries gigantic expectations from MSIL. It's their first attempt to enter the crossover segment, a car with a powerful engine with only diesel variants and the NEXA experience of exploring the premium market segment. The pricing will be a key factor for the S-Cross, since the Hyundai Creta is already geared up to lock horns with it, as also some existing brands like Renault, Nissan and Ford already have their feet quite deep in the market.



11

Books

OLD SAGA, NEW STORY

Rating: 7.5/10

Book: *Scion of Ikshvaku*

Author: Amish Tripathi

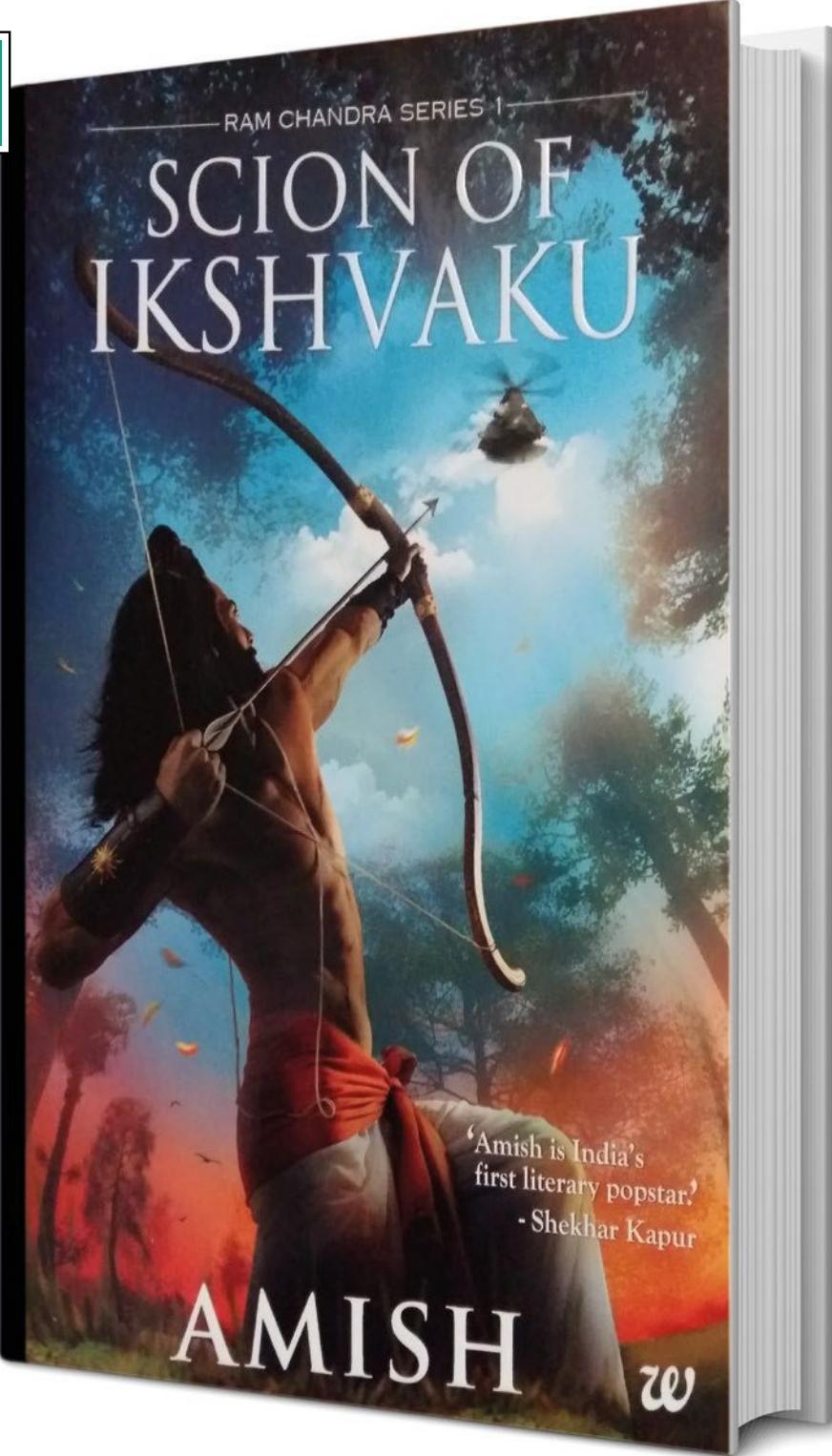
Genre: Mythological fiction

Publisher: Westland Limited

Price: ₹350

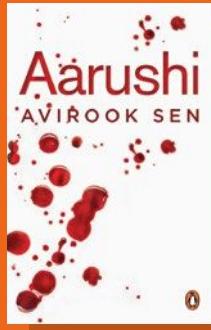
Review by: Siddharth M Joshi

The story of a man
who rose to
become God



FHM
SUGGESTS
YOU TO
ALSO FLIP
THROUGH...

A lot of hullabaloo around the latest titles. We gave them a read and found these worthy of mention for this month.



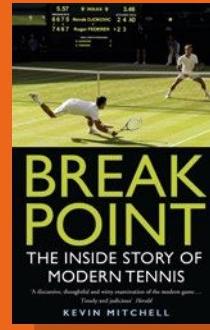
Arushi
A definitive account, investigation and trial of a sensational crime.

Author: Avirook Sen

Genre: Non-fiction

Publication: Penguin India

Price: ₹299



Break Point
The inside story of modern tennis.

Author: Kevin Mitchell

Genre: Sport

Publication: John Murray

Price: ₹499

George Lucas once said, "Mythology gives you a sense of what people believe and what they fear." He was talking about a local population limited to a country or region. But there's another purpose that these fantastical tales serve, which transcends political boundaries: highlight the rational capacity of the hero. Indian mythology is one of the few that built a basis for a major religion, still in existence. And also one that's been a favourite for telling and retelling in modern literature. Following the Indian tradition of improvisational rendition, Amish Tripathi is out with his own take on *Ramayana* with the first volume, *Scion of Ikshvaku*, in his *Ram Chandra* series.

First things first, it is a brave endeavour to dethrone a God from his unapproachable pedestal that was otherwise out of the critics' appeal. He did it in the *Shiva Trilogy*, and does it again in *Scion of Ikshvaku*, the story of a humanised Ram, prone to all sorts of human fallacies and desires. The story may, at the most, be said to have been inspired from the original epic with several detours where Amish goes oblique and absolutely away from the actual line of reference.

Dashrath, the king of Ayodhya, is an infallible warrior and king, but is childless despite being married to three princesses for many years. In a salt-pepper turn of events he comes face-to-face with Lanka's warlord, Ravan. On the decisive day of the battle his over-confidence lays exposed as he incurs fatal injuries and is rushed away from the site in a brave attempt by his youngest queen, Kaikayi. Incidentally almost at the same time his eldest wife, Kaushalya, gives birth to their first son, Ram. Obviously Dashrath hates the baby and blames his shameful defeat on him.

After all four brothers are born and

come of age, they're sent to Rishi Vashisth's school with hidden identities. The princes return to Ayodhya years later, finishing their education in several subjects of statecraft and martial arts. Ram is given the job of maintaining law and police in Ayodhya. Dhashrath's attitude towards his eldest son changes and he announces him as his crown prince. In the meantime Ram and Lakshman help Vishwamitra to stop an Asura attack on his hermitage, following which they head to a remote kingdom of Mithila. This is where Ram meets his sweetheart, Sita, who is not the coy, hesitant daughter of king Janak, but a daredevil who impressively kicks asses. They are married post a dramatic Swayamwar, where Ravan and Kumbhakaran are also present but feel insulted when Ram is declared the winning suitor.

“THE STORY IS THAT OF A HUMANISED RAM, PRONE TO ALL HUMAN FALLACIES AND DESIRES.”

The next day Ravan besieges Mithila with a huge army, which is almost impossible to defeat. Ram is forced to use the forbidden biological weapon Asurastra, and Ravan makes a timely escape on his Pushpak Viman. Our prince is a ruthless follower of the rules of the land, and so accepts being banished from the kingdom for 14 years with Lakshman and Sita, who insist upon sticking together with him. The book ends in the 13th year of their exile, when Sita is kidnapped by Ravan.

VERDICT

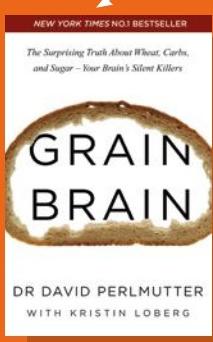
Amish does a darning well job at building up characters, even better than the kosher composers. Ram initially strikes you as a dull and boring character but he grows up to be deep and disarmingly likeable, while Lakshman shares his impulsive nature with a modern Charlie Sheen. Bharat, the otherwise ideal brother, is painted as an ambitious ladies' man. Manthara dons the garb of a wealthy trader who helps Kaikayi put Bharat on the throne.

The book, however, misses the feisty pace of the first book in the *Shiva Trilogy*. It often slows down with longish preachy speeches. An incident of gang rape and murder of Roshni, Manthara's daughter, that anticipates the Nirbhaya case of recent years, appears too forced. Overall, it is an enjoyable book, full of imagination that often shocks and makes you smile at the smart twists in its plot. It may be offensive to hardliners who can still not see their Gods be subjected to the tools of poetic licence. It's safe to say, however, that the author means no offence. Amish's Ram does manage to evoke awe and respect, afterall.

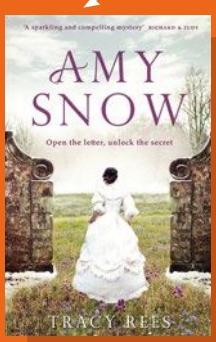


ABOUT THE AUTHOR

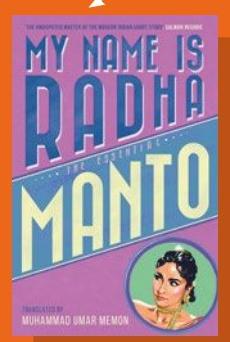
Amish is a graduate of IIM-Calcutta and worked for 14 years in the financial services industry before turning to full-time writing. He lives in Mumbai with his wife Preeti and son Neel.



Grain Brain
The surprising truth about wheat, carbs, and sugar—your brain's silent killers.
Author: Dr David Perlmutter
Genre: Health
Publication: Hachette India
Price: ₹399



Amy Snow
A life-changing discovery awaits, if only she can unlock the secret.
Author: Tracy Rees
Genre: Fiction
Publication: Hachette India
Price: ₹499



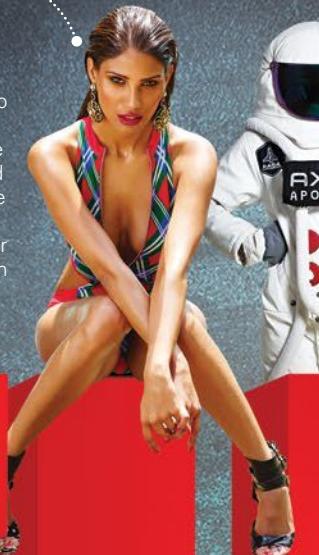
My Name is Radha Manto
Path-breaking selection of stories by one of the most popular storytellers in Urdu.
Author: Manto
Genre: Fiction/Translation
Publication: Penguin India
Price: ₹599

5 REASONS TO SUBSCRIBE

1

GIRLS

You don't need us to tell you this. But even then for those still not enlightened we find, shoot some of India's hottest girls to shoot in their delicates. Its a tough job, but ah well.



2

FOOD & BOOZE

What's the second best thing to sex-on-toast women? A great glass of sweaty beer, a side of a *tikka*, three bottles of wine...you get the drift.



4

GADGETS & GIZMOS

In our endeavour to deliver the best to you each issue, we are constantly forced to change our phones, use new cameras, laptops... so you know which one to upgrade to. Sigh.



3

CARS AND BIKES

We drive the cars and bikes you lust after. Sometimes cycles too. Sometimes.

5

ADVENTURE

Jumping out of a plane? Climbing a mountain? *FHM* is always at hand. Yes like a sherpa.





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STUFF THAT DREAMS ARE MADE OF

A dazzling smile is a rare thing to find. Careless, uninhibited... it catches one's attention like a genie in a bottle. But what if it's paired with eyes that can see through your soul? It's what we men secretly look for everywhere. And if the girl is a charmer, much like Aditi Rao Hydari, we have ourselves a dream girl. Carefree, full of life and (*actually*) royalty, we knew the second we saw her that this is exactly what dreams are made of!

Words **ASHISH PRATAP SINGH** // Photography **ANUSHKA MENON** // Styling **AAKANKSHA JAIN**

Hair & Makeup **ROSARIO BELMONTE** AT ANIMA CREATIVE MANAGEMENT

Fashion Assistants **MANSHA KHURANA, RHEA TRIPATHI AND NUPUR KALOSE**

Model **SUPRIYA AT AURAA MODEL MANAGEMENT** // Hair and Makeup for Model **HAIR GARAGE BY NATASHA SHAIKH**

Location **JW MARRIOTT HOTEL, JUHU, MUMBAI**

“ Baby was also cussing in the movie, for crying out loud! ”

Shirt Dress: H&M;
Shorts: Calvin Klein

W

hat we wanted as kinky, came out looking classy. We asked for hot, but it turned out to be pretty. We wished for sultry but instead got refreshing. Aditi, we admit, was a good choice for a 50 Shades of Grey themed shoot. We're talking fish-net stockings, erotic whips, fur-lined handcuffs, et al. I mean, she looks every bit sexy as she is gorgeous. But somewhere through the first shot, it hit us like a rock that sexy lasts for a moment but gorgeous lingers on for much longer. We wanted our cover girl to be ravishing but not for days or weeks, but forever... to be talked about, remembered, to be dreamt of. Therefore, boys and girls, Aditi Rao Hydri in an avatar that only she can pull off—with a sprinkle of nonchalance, of course.

Our cover girl had a bit of a cold and was under the weather to a point of exhaustion, but come the blinding lights and the camera, she was a different avatar. Aditi loved the shoot, by the way, and this is what she said. We're keeping our fingers crossed for her health as there are a lot of hectic days anticipated. She has just wrapped up *Fitoor*, *Wazir* and also *Aur Devdas* (wow!). Not to forget *Guddu Rangeela*, which has been received well by the cine-goers. Not bad, eh? No elbow room and lots and lots of work... days do sound a little mundane for the star. "Not really," Aditi exclaims. She said that routines are sorted when it's back-breaking shooting day-in-and-day-out. But what happens on days when she doesn't shoot? "It's even more hectic!" Because then everything else in the world vies for her attention, we're guessing.

But let's cut the damsel a little slack here, shall we? Her latest, *Guddu Rangeela* has been accepted well by the masses and critics (*she is quick to credit the success to Subhash Kapoor*) alike and it's now time for her to put her feet up on the table, albeit just for some time, lean back and enjoy the finer things.

Jumping right into the interview, the first question for her was whether she liked playing Baby in the movie and how it was rubbing shoulders with a heavyweight like Arshad Warsi. "I loved it because the role demanded taking the part and turning it on its head. So they were playing on the innocence, wide eyed sort of vulnerability of the girl, but also making her really sharp-tongued and dagger-eyed." Baby was also cussing in the movie, for crying out loud! If you haven't caught the flick as yet then we suggest that you do.

Over a hot cuppa coffee, there was just so much to talk to Aditi about... movies, personal life, career and everything in between. Read on!

CAREER

FHM: How was it to work with Amit Sadh, who is relatively a newbie?

ARH: Amit and I are buddies because we have done the *Platinum* advertisement together and a lot of people loved that—if how well the ad did is anything to go by. Every time Vinil, who shot that ad, has directed me, it's a given that within three days I have got a call for a movie!

Touchwood for that...

Yeah touchwood. That's amazing, right? I keep telling Vinil, 'Listen Vinil, every year do one ad with me, so I get one cracker of a film after that.'

You've already worked with some Bollywood veterans. Ever got a complex working with some of the biggest names in the industry?

Not at all! Once the camera comes on I don't feel complexed; like in *Wazir* I was completely in awe of Mr. Bachchan and wide-eyed around Farhan—same with Arshad. He is so

“IN WAZIR I WAS COMPLETELY IN AWE OF MR. BACHCHAN AND WIDE-EYED AROUND FARHAN.”



Dress: Deme by Gabriella; Lingerie: Calvin Klein

good, his timing is so perfect, but once the camera comes on I don't know what happens, I guess I forget about it...

So in one line, what do you think worked for the movie? *Guddu Rangeela*?

Umm. I think it was an entertaining movie with a very strong story; that has worked for the movie, according to me.

From Roshni in *Murder 3* to Baby in *Guddu Rangeela*... how have you, in your own eyes, evolved as an actor over the years?

Oh God, I don't even think I have started the 'e' of evolve! Because I think outsiders don't get that kind of a platform of opportunities. Even for somebody like Kangana Ranaut or Deepika Padukone, who have been in the industry for a long time and whom I respect immensely, it has taken a long time to now start doing the kind of work that they're doing. I think you need those opportunities to be able to evolve, so I feel that, I try... from whatever is given to me I pick the best directors, and ultimately I have to wait for people to want me in their film. I cannot dictate terms and conditions—I don't have that kind of privilege. I think good people have chosen me; I just want the parts to get more kind of...stupidly put—kickass.

Gravitational? Where there's more gravity attached to the role? Or more challenging?

More challenging in some way. I don't want to get stuck to any kind of image. I am what I look like and that everybody knows. But as an actor, you can be made to do different things and the way you look or you are shouldn't come in the way of that.

So you are not for clichés at all?

Firstly, I am claustrophobic—I hate it if somebody puts me in a box; I just want to tear that box open. Like if I do a bikini shoot, every other shoot is going to be a bikini shoot. Why can't I do different things? I think versatility is something I would like to strive for and one just tries one's best, right?

So even till now, which movie that you have done has really pushed your boundaries?

I feel kind of conflicted about this because, on one hand, I am saying I want kickass parts, but on the other, I know I have been quite lucky in doing some pretty good stuff. Like in *London Paris New York*, it was just me and Ali, and I played almost three characters in it because that girl goes through so much change in London, Paris and New York.

Through all the actors and the co-stars that you have worked with, who's the funniest?

Funniest... It has to be Farhan Akhtar! He's really hilarious. He's got a very quiet sense of humour. He's always saying something funny to have everyone constantly in splits. His timing is good and he's really quite funny.

STUFF
THAT
DREAMS
ARE MADE
OF

“ Farhan Akhtar is always saying something funny to have everyone in splits. ”



On Aditi: Jacket: Ayesha
Depala; Bra: The V
Renaissance; Jeans: Calvin
Klein; On Model: Dress: H&M

**Any actors that are full of pranks, which are actually like practical jokers?**

That would be me. I pulled a really bad one on Amit Sadh on the sets of *Guddu Rangeela*...

We'd love to hear about it.**What is it? What did you do?**

We didn't get too many days off, Subhash sir really worked us and we were at difficult locations and these guys used to tease me a lot. So one day I decided to get back at them. All these guys were out and I was looking for them. I went knocking on Arshad's room but there was nobody there; then I went to Amit's room, again nobody there. Strangely, Amit's room was not locked so I went in and, amongst other things, saw his first love, his cycle. He loves his cycle more than anything!

And it was a location shoot? He had his cycle there?

Yeah, you know what actors do (*laughs*). So I picked up his laptop, I made my spot boy pick up his cycle, I picked up his running shoes, I picked up all the things that I thought would be dear to him. And I hid them in my room. He came back and he lost the plot! He was about to shut the hotel down with his drama. That's when somebody called me to say, 'Listen do you know what has happened? Please be careful with your things.' That was so much fun!

Okay. So you seem to be a very chilled out person. How are the shoots, once the cameras come on? Do you switch? Do you get into the role immediately or do you take a while? Are there a lot of takes and retakes?

I pretty much switch on and switch off but...

So you're a director's delight!

I don't know. Because sometimes when I have never worked with that director before, he may find my approach a bit unusual. But when the camera comes on I am fine. I don't know why that happens but it just happens like that. Preparing and being in character, I feel, is a very pre production thing, like in your body and brain. It has happened when you heard the part, when you read it many times, when you talked about it. For me that's how it is.

Out of all the yesteryear actors, if you ever had the chance to work with, who would you have loved to be cast in a movie with?

I will tell you two people. Dharmendra in his black and white films.



Oh nice, like in *Khamoshiyan*...

Yal And Shashi Kapoor. Oh my God! But it's for a superficial reason; that they are insanely good looking. But I truly believe that they were great actors too. They had these melting eyes but they were men. I think that's the perfect combination.

Awesome! And anybody from Hollywood? From the current crop?

From the current crop? Ryan Gosling.

Ryan Gosling? Incidentally I asked the same question from Lisa—she also said Ryan Gosling, I asked the same question from Shruti Hassan and she too took his name.

Yeah there's something about him. He's got that boyish charm, tender eyes, perfect combination...

So what remains? How do we see you in the next few years?

Next few years...ummm, I really don't know. I take each day as it comes. I have never plotted and planned. Because I just can't. Like I said earlier, I don't have the privilege of choice and I don't have the privilege of having a backing. So we will all have to wait and see how the next few years pan out.

So if I were to say probably nothing to do with acting, if you wanted to write a movie, write a song, sing it..

I don't want to be behind the camera—at least at the moment. Again, like I said, it's moment to moment. Presently, what I really want to do is to be pushed by great directors. I want to work with people like Vishal Bharadwaj, Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Shoojit Sircar. I want them to kick my butt and really give me something amazing to do. I love doing anything that's creative. I could become a chef if I wanted to. I would love to do something like that.

Now talking about roles. If there was any role that you have seen and would have been like, 'Damn! I really want to do this role!' What role would that be?

I would have really loved to do Kangana's role in *Queen*. Simply because I think she did it in a way that no one could have. Moreover, I respect her a lot because I think what people said was her biggest weaknesses, she has turned that on its head and made it her greatest strength. I would love to do *Piku*, I would love to do *Tanu Weds Manu Returns*.

Any Hollywood movies?

I watched *Gone Girl* recently and I so wanted to do that movie, or something similar. It was really wicked. Another film that I would like to do is *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon*. I would have killed to do that part. And I keep wishing that somebody in this country would do something like that...

PERSONAL LIFE

How was growing up in Hyderabad?

Umm... I didn't grow up there much actually, but I spent a lot of my time there because I was in boarding school and big chunks of my holidays were spent there. Hyderabad to me meant being unconnected with the general world. Hindi movies were a taboo in the household. I watched my first Hindi movie at my neighbour's place. And I was mesmerised. Growing up was a lot about music and dance and reading and playing. I was constantly scraping my knees falling off cycles. I would find any excuse to not do my homework, and be out running around. There are pictures of mine where nobody believes it's me. There are pictures of me as a child where I look like a boy because of shorts and cropped hair!

Being a descendant of two distinct royal lineages, was growing up any different because of that?

My family didn't ever make anyone within the confines of home feel like that. It was completely chilled out and I give the credit for this to my mother and grandmother. I didn't grow up with my father because my parents were divorced. But my grandmother was a real hero. She taught me how to ride a bicycle, play badminton; she was totally kickass and my mum was the gentle one. From her I got all the music and the dance and all the feminine things.

I had a happy childhood. There were problems, I was not growing up with both my parents. But I didn't even know of these problems. But I know I was brought up with a lot of love and affection.

So what's your fondest memory—now that we are talking about—from your growing up years?

I think my grandmother's house in Hyderabad. I felt it was an enchanted castle because it's on a hill and there's a lot of wilderness surrounding it. The moment I go there even now, it immediately takes over all my senses.

Another thing that I remember fondly is waking up to the sound of my mother doing her *riyaaz*. I really miss that and I realise the value of that now because my mum's in Delhi and I am here. But I have grown up since... my mother always says that I sang before I spoke and I know why. She says that I started singing in perfect tune at the age of six months or less. She would sing and I would practically copy whatever she used to sing!

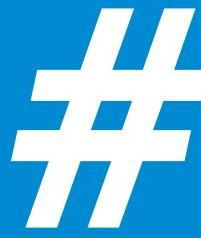


Crop Top and Skirt:
Deme by Gabriella

**STUFF
THAT
DREAMS
ARE MADE
OF**



On Aditi-Dress: Zara;
Lingerie: Calvin Klein;
Shoes: Christian Louboutin
On Model-Bralet: The V
Renaissance; Skirt: Deme
by Gabriella



ASKED ALONG THE WAY

#Favourite dish?
Japanese Black Cod.

**#Favourite drink at a
party?**
Tequila shot.

**#Colour that's most
visible in your
wardrobe?**
Whites, blacks and pinks.

**#What are you most
likely to be seen in on
a day when you have
nothing to do?**
Shorts and a Ganji. I like to be
effortless.

**#How many pairs of
shoes do you have?**
I am sure they are more than 60.

**#Favourite label/
designer-Indian?**
I love Sabyasachi and Anand
Kabra. I also like Gaurav Gupta.

**#Any favourite
International Labels?**
I really like Valentino.

**Morning or a late night
kind of a person?**
I like mornings. I don't like to miss
the mornings.

**#Beaches or
mountains?**
Beaches! Cent per cent!

#Favourite beach?
A little Turkish town called Bodrum.
It has the most serene beach.

#Favourite gadget...
My Apple TV. I just bought it.

#Favourite Fragrance?
I love Narciso.

**#Most coveted
accessory in your
wardrobe?**
There is an old Omega of my
grandmother's. Then there's
another Omega that my father gave
me that he had.

**#Any favourite
workout tracks?**
Blurred Lines by Robert Thicke.

#Favourite superhero?
Batman!

#FHM for you is...
Sexy and fun!

“I pulled a really bad joke on Amit on the sets of *Guddu Rangeela*. ”







PAID TO LOSE



ON A CHILLY NIGHT IN APRIL, FRANK GREAVES, 37, DROVE 150 MILES FOR A JOB. THAT JOB WAS TO FIGHT A YOUNGER, BIGGER BOXER FOR CASH. HE KNEW HIS CHANCES OF WINNING WERE NEXT TO NOTHING, BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP HIM. WHY? HE'S A JOURNEYMAN BOXER....

WORDS: MATT BLAKE
PHOTOGRAPHY: GREG FUNNELL

THE FIRST THING YOU NOTICE ON THE WAY UP TO THE AWAY FIGHTERS' DRESSING ROOM IS THE SMELL.

A potent blend of musty gym bags, stale sweat and Deep Heat rolls down the dim stairwell like a mist. The second thing is the sound of punches. Each blow reverberates down the stairs, drowning out the muffled cheers of 600 fight fans baying for blood inside the venue. Then a voice.

"Am I looking sharp, or are you just wanking me off?"

"Yeah," says another, in the same cockney twang. "But you've got to commit to your shots, Frank. It's a bad habit you've got. Let 'em fucking go, straight down the pipe. And if it does land, he's gonna think twice about having a punch-up with you. You ain't gonna get these days back, Frank. So go out there and enjoy it."

FRANK GREAVES IS PREPARING FOR HIS THIRD PROFESSIONAL PRIZEFIGHT AT BOURNEMOUTH'S O2 ACADEMY. He batters younger brother Johnny's outstretched palms. But he's not warming up inside his dressing room where he should be; there's no space. Two other away fighters are in the 10ft x 6ft shoebox with their cornermen. So he's outside on the landing. Here, a space about the size of a pool table, his footwork needs to be perfect. One wrong step could send him tumbling down the stairs.

It's not ideal conditions for a boxer ahead of a big fight. But Frank – like his brother before him – is a journeyman. And he knows the score. "This is fucking Buckingham Palace compared to some of the venues Johnny's fought in," he says, catching his breath.

"Yeah," adds Johnny. "There were

times when I fought literally in a cowshed behind the venue with four other fighters – the floor's tiled, you're slipping about, it's pissing with rain outside and I had to cross a muddy field in my boxing boots to get to the ring. The home fighters are warm indoors while we're out there going, 'Here bruv, can I borrow your jacket? It's fucking freezing in here!'

THAT'S HOW IT IS FOR A JOURNEYMAN, AN ON-THE-ROAD FIGHTER, OR SIMPLY JUST 'THE OPPONENT'. The job has different names, but the motto is the same: have gloves, will travel. They are the men who will drive across the country, often at very short notice, for a grand... and lose. They are the pawns on boxing's bloody chessboard, sacrificed to protect a king or to make way for a promising young rook. They fight the 'ticket sellers' of the sport, prospects earmarked for the big time. Without men like Frank and Johnny there would be no Carl Froch, no Amir Khan and no David Haye. In boxing, like in chess, pawns can never become kings.

"Boxing is not a sport, it is a business," Johnny tells us. "No promoter is going to pay for your fights out of his own pocket unless he is sure you are going to get to a level to repay him. So unless you're a ticket seller from the off, you don't stand a chance."

Tonight's promoter is Greg Steene, of Warrior's Boxing Promotions, who has organised more than 100 shows like this. "To make boxing pay nowadays, the house fighters basically pay for the

fight through selling their own tickets," he tells us.

"They pay for the opponent and put a bit of money into the house. So, most quality journeymen are the guys who don't sell tickets – they turn up and fight the home fighter and almost invariably lose. It's not fixed; sometimes they do win and that can help them. But if they keep winning then all of a sudden they're poison and nobody wants to ask them back."

In other words, losing's not so much in a journeyman's genes, it's in his interests. "If you've got a boy who's super-tough, why would you match him against a boy who's sold 100 tickets, why take that risk?" Steene adds. "It's not good business."

Nobody knows this better than Johnny who, with a record of 96 losses in 100 professional fights, is considered to be one of the greatest journeymen of all time. That's because, in this business, journeymen are figures of respect, not shame. They make boxing tick, and turn losing into an art form.

"I was the guy who'd take a fight at an hour's notice, anywhere in the country," Johnny tells us. "I was known as the guy who never got knocked out and always lost well. I fought nearly 20 British champions, two world champions, Commonwealth champions and fought in stadiums of 20,000 people."

For most of those, Frank was in his corner. "There ain't many people who could do what Johnny did," Frank chips in. "He's the toughest bastard I've ever known."

But you need more than that to live the life of a journeyman. "I've climbed into the ring with phlegm literally dripping off my back," recalls Johnny. "I've been called every name under the sun, threatened, abused, even chased from venues. But that's the lot of a journeyman boxer: always the away fighter, always the villain. The most hated man in the room. I fucking loved it."

DOWNSTAIRS, FIGHT NIGHT IS IN FULL SWING AND THE ATMOSPHERE IS VISCERAL.

This is not a corporate crowd on a »

PAID TO LOSE



FRANK
GREAVES, 37,
JOURNEYMAN



FRANK LIKES
TO BIND HIS
OWN HANDS
BEFORE A FIGHT



jolly. These are ordinary people, supporting a friend, boyfriend or son. Puce-faced men crowd about the ring hurling abuse at the away fighters, or urging the Spearmint Rhino ring girls to get their 'growlers' out, while trying not to spill their pints. Girlfriends totter about on needle-heels, wincing whenever their man takes a hit. The night itself takes place under British Boxing Board Of Control rules, the same rules that govern the big, multi-million-pound fights. But there are no TV cameras, no celebrities or VIP areas, though there is a guy on the balcony filming the night's action and selling the DVDs 'for a score'.

This is not amateur boxing or white-collar. This is pro-boxing at the

bottom rung. Boxers here dream of the pizzazz of a big show, a big fight, a belt, a TV date and a spot next to their heroes. For many, this is where it starts. For others, it is where it can end. For Frank, it's another day at the office.

"Chill out, mate, you look a bit nervous," he chirps as he bounces about the room shadowboxing. "Me? Nah, I don't get nerves. I was born for this."

FRANK WAS BORN ON 6 SEPTEMBER 1977 IN THE HEART OF LONDON'S EAST END. Eighteen months later, Johnny came along. As kids they were inseparable, and took up boxing at an early age. Johnny was the feisty one, with Frank often having to »

THE AWAY FIGHTERS'
DRESSING ROOM IS
SMALL AND FULL. FRANK
HAS TO SHARE IT WITH
TWO OTHER BOXERS



help him out of scrapes. And it was Johnny who first entered the world of prizefighting, trading blows with fighters on the amateur and unlicensed scenes before going pro in 2007. For most of this Frank was by his side, whether holding pads in the gym, managing fights, or at locations from Dudley Town Hall to London's O2 Arena.

"I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for him," says Frank. "I've been in the lion's den with Johnny more times than I can remember. It got to a point where I had to put my money where my mouth was."

So, last November, he turned pro, a year after Johnny hung up his gloves. Frank lost his first fight on points, but won his second. And tonight, he is top of the card, being paid £1,400 to fight a 31-year-old ticket seller called Joe Hayes.

Does he think he can win? "Let's be straight," he says, binding his fists in tape. "I want to win and know I can. Do I expect to win? No. This kid's sold 200 tickets tonight so, at £35 a ticket, he's bringing in seven grand."

AT 37, FRANK IS AN OLD SPORTSMAN BY ANY STANDARD.

Johnny says he fought to give his two kids a life he never had growing up. But Frank has no children, lives with wife Leanne, 32, in South Ockendon, Essex, and drives a black cab for a living. If he doesn't do it for the money, why does he choose to be punished by younger fighters in front of crowds who'd like nothing more than to see him spread-eagled on the canvas in a puddle of his own blood?

"It's the ultimate test," says Frank. "Fight or flight. I'm far from an adrenaline junkie but, fuck me, what a buzz. It's like nothing else."

Then he pauses for a moment, stops wrapping his hands and looks us dead in the eye. "Listen, all that clichéd nonsense about how you can be whoever you want to be. No, you can't. I'm never going to be world champion – I'm 37 years old for fuck's sake. But life is mundane. I spend most of my time vegetating in a taxi and it's boring as fuck. Life

FRANK ENTERS THE RING TO NEAR-SILENCE

is about experience and in 30 years' time I'm not going to be talking about the time I dropped an old lady at King's Cross, I'm going to be talking about tonight."

IT'S TIME. The other fighters have drifted home. The atmosphere turns eerily quiet. Frank's in the zone. Even Johnny, whose usual chatter makes Floyd Mayweather sound like a grunting adolescent, is silent.

A muffled voice reverberates through the walls: "LADEEEZ AND GENTLEMEN, IT'S TIME FOR OUR MAIN EVENT."

We follow the brothers down the rabbit warren of stairwells and corridors into the wings, behind the stage, where one of the ring girls is fluffing the crowd with a heartbreaking operatic aria, still in her low-cut leotard and fishnet stockings. It's surreal.

Warbling done, and the fighters are called into the ring. Frank enters first through a cloud of dry ice to near silence, except for a few four-letter catcalls and chants of 'who are ya'. He gives a theatrical bow. Then comes Hayes and the audience erupts. "Ave the cunt, Joey," and "Fuckin kill him" are among the most discernible screams from ringside. Hayes is visibly bigger than Frank, and his muscles are more defined – not to say Frank doesn't look in good shape. After a few final words from

their cornermen and instructions from the referee, the first round of six is rung out. Hayes instantly launches into a flurry of punishing blows.

"Get off the fucking ropes, Frank," Johnny can be heard yelling over the crowd's deafening roar. "Work that jab, Frank. Keep moving!" Frank seems to hear him, bouncing nimbly around most of the punches and throwing a few of his own to counter. The round ends with a clear victory to Hayes. Round two is more evenly matched. Frank throws more punches and looks lighter on his feet. At one point, he even dances away from Hayes, gives a grinning shrug of the shoulders and mouths the words, "Is that all you got, mate?"

Judging by the crowd's reaction, he might as well have pulled down his shorts and defecated in his opponent's spit bucket.

It is quite apparent Frank is way more than just cannon fodder. He is quick-footed, fast-punching and difficult to hit. He is a great boxer. Still, by the end of the third, red patches have formed around his kidneys and a dark bruise below his right eye. The fourth and fifth rounds are kinder to Frank. A fan may well have awarded him both. By the sixth both look weary, and with the final bell, they stumble back to their corners. It doesn't take long for the referee to call them to the



PAID TO LOSE



THE ATMOSPHERE
RINGSIDE IS VISCERAL

FRANK'S YOUNGER BROTHER
(AND EX-JOURNEYMAN) JOHNNY
LOOKS ON FROM HIS CORNER



FRANK'S OPPONENT IS A
LOCAL 'TICKET SELLER'
NAMED JOE HAYES





JOHNNY HAS SOME WORDS FOR FRANK AFTER ROUND THREE



centre of the ring. He takes Hayes' hand and raises it. The decision is unanimous.

BACK IN THE AWAY DRESSING ROOM, THE ATMOSPHERE IS FAR FROM SOMBRE. It's almost as busy as when we arrived as other fighters pile in to congratulate Frank. "That was a great fight," says one. "Well done, mate."

Frank's lost none of his sense of humour: "What? For being a fat cab driver a year ago?"

"He was, an' all," agrees Johnny, grinning from cauliflower ear to cauliflower ear. "It was a bit emotional, though, to be fair. But I couldn't be prouder. Now, it's been a stressful night. I need a lager."

He goes to look for an off licence while the postmortem continues. "It was tough, I knew I was in for a

fight," says Frank. "There were a couple of times where I felt like saying, 'Will you just fuck off mate, don't you know I'm 37?' But it's frustrating because in the gym environment, I'd have boxed his tits off. And I know I won at least a couple of those rounds."

Others nod in agreement. "But with the adrenaline and the crowd, it was always going to be tough mentally. That's what it's like fighting on the road."

IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER TO FRANK THAT HE LOST. Yes, he says he'd like to have won, but there's something far more important at stake: reputation. He may have lost but he lost well. He fought with skill and heart and, above all, put on a great show. And that is a golden ticket to any promoter

with a war chest of untested fighters and pound signs for pupils. "If I'd have won tonight, they would probably have cancelled my next fight," he says. "So every cloud..."

It's past midnight. The crowd's gone, a lone man is dismantling the ring, and it's a three-hour drive back to Essex. Johnny's returned and has a four-pack of Tuborg under his arm. "Who's up for a good piss-up and karaoke in the back of the car?" he says, waving his beers.

"Not tonight, John," Frank replies as we walk towards the car park. "The promoter's offered me another bout in a few weeks so I'm back in the gym tomorrow. You know I never drink before a fight."

Frank and Johnny train fighters at Peacock Gym in East London. See peacockgym.com



A POSTMORTEM INTO
THE NIGHT'S RESULT
BEGINS IN THE
DRESSING ROOM



THE GREATEST BRITISH JOURNEYMEN OF ALL TIME

*Boxing expert Mark Turley – author of *Journeymen: The Other Side Of The Boxing Business, A New Perspective On The Noble Art*, published by Pitch (£16.99) – picks his top five*



PETER BUCKLEY

FROM: BIRMINGHAM DREW: 12
FIGHTS: 300 WON: 32
LOST: 266

Among others, he impressively fought five world champs, including Prince Naseem Hamed. None of them knocked him out. In fact, in a 19-year pro career, often fighting three or four times a month, he never even got cut.



KRISTIAN LAIGHT

FROM: NUNEATON DREW: 7
FIGHTS: 213 WON: 9
LOST: 197

Known as 'Mr Reliable', he may well surpass Buckley's record before retirement. A defensive master, he has fought from featherweight all the way up to light-middleweight.



JOHNNY GREAVES

FROM: EAST LONDON LOST: 96
DREW: 0 FIGHTS: 100 WON: 4
LOST: 52

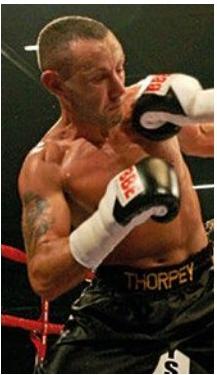
He turned the unappreciated journeyman art into entertainment. He'd give opponents a little kiss, throw an Ali-shuffle or make faces at the crowd. Never KO'd, he stood up to some of the best around despite smoking 20 a day.



JODY MEIKLE

FROM: SCUNTHORPE DREW: 3
FIGHTS: 63 WON: 8
LOST: 52

A lovable lunatic, who has been in prison four times, Jody routinely has audiences howling with laughter. He is the only fighter in UK boxing history to have 'excessive clowning' given as an official reason for points being deducted.



DANIEL THORPE

FROM: SHEFFIELD DREW: 3
FIGHTS: 139 WON: 23
LOST: 113

A gifted operator who once put world champ Ricky Burns on his arse. He even held the Central Area title at one time. He eventually took the journeyman path as a way to make a living, retiring from the scene in 2011.

HOT



DAMN!



Words:
Chris Sayer

Photography:
Florence Keys

Fire up the barbecue and stick your brewskis on ice: summer has officially arrived—and it's brought a scorchingly fit Sam Faiers out to play...

SAM
FAIERS

*It's not summer
until you've...*

**BEEN
CROWNED
CHAMPION
AT WATER
FIGHTS**

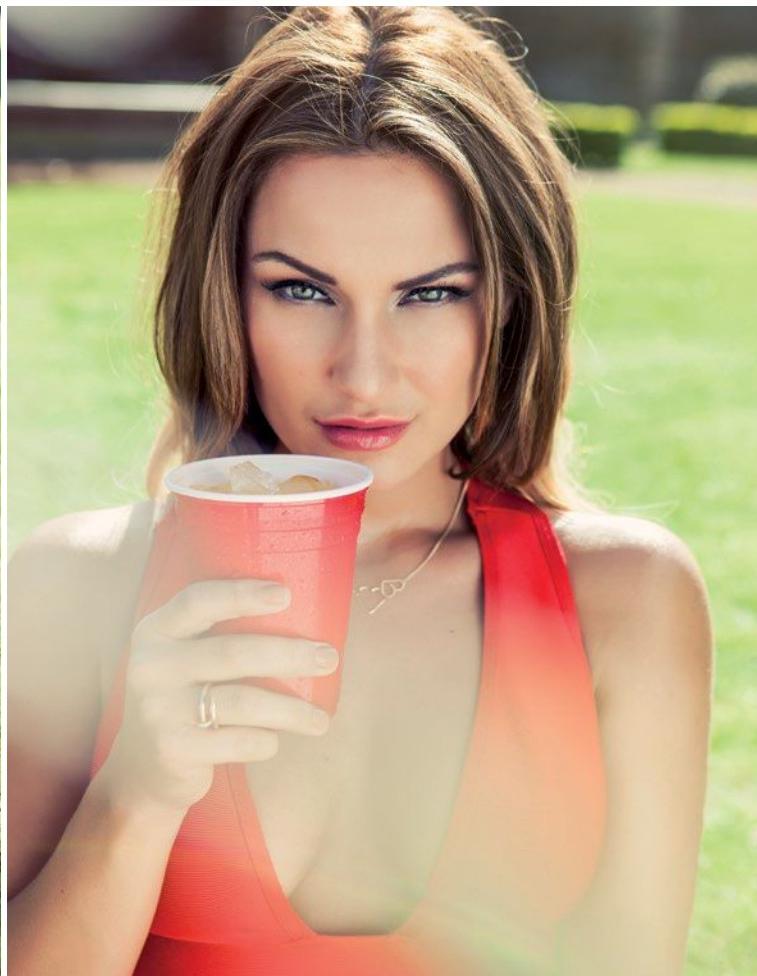
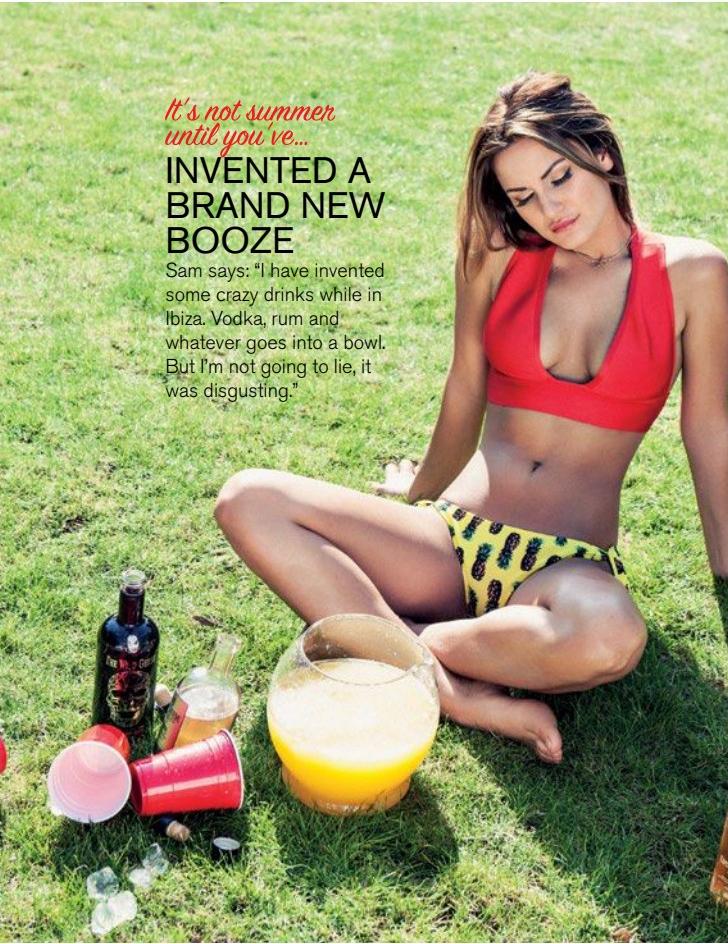
Sam says: "I'm very competitive. I won't hold back on the water balloons, and I'd give it my all. I don't mess around. This is war."



*It's not summer
until you've...*

INVENTED A BRAND NEW BOOZE

Sam says: "I have invented some crazy drinks while in Ibiza. Vodka, rum and whatever goes into a bowl. But I'm not going to lie, it was disgusting."



Yellow Bra: Calvin Klein. Blue Bikini Bottoms: swimwear365.com. Sunglasses: Porsche Carrera. Red top: House of CB. YELLOW Bikini Bottoms: ASOS.COM. Alcohol: The Wild Geese Collection of Premium Irish Whiskeys and Rum. White Tennis Set: American Apparel. Red Swimsuit: Boohoo.com. Denim Shorts: Boohoo.com. Tennis Racket: sportsdirect.com

*It's not summer
until you've...*

DISCOVERED WHAT YOUR SUMMER ANTHEM IS

(...and played it so loud that your neighbours complain.) Sam says: "The Prodigy's new album is a great shout for a summer tune! I've seen them a few times at V Festival. They're the best live act—crazy lasers and huge robots on stage. Their crowd is the best, too."



SAM
FAIERS





*It's not summer
until you've...*

COMPLAINED ABOUT HOW HOT IT IS

Sam says: "I've never known heat like Dubai. In the summer over there, it's unbearable. It hits you, like when you've got a roast cooking and you open the oven door and it hits your face, that's what it felt like."



**SAM
FAIERS**

*It's not summer until
you've...*

SUFFERED FROM MURRAYMANIA

Sam says: "I'd love to go to Wimbledon this year, and I'm pretty handy with a racquet. I'm better at badminton though, and I've been invited to go and train with the England team."

THE BILLION DOLLAR PLASTICINE EMPIRE



How did a little brown lump of Plasticine spawn a money-making movie studio and some of the greatest British films of the past 20 years? FHM travels to Bristol to meet the brains (and hands) behind Aardman Animations

Words: Ben Arnold

Photography: Leon Csernohlavek



AARDMAN CO-FOUNDER
PETER LORD WITH HIS
OLDEST CREATION

You don't have to be mad to work at Aardman Animations, but a healthy dash of British eccentricity doesn't go amiss (OK, that might

need work before the stickers are made). But what you do need to be is talented. And not just reasonably talented. You need to be world class.

Over 40 years, Aardman has become the world leader in 'claymation', the art of animation using run-of-the-mill modelling clay first developed around the turn of the 20th century. When a full-scale film like *Chicken Run*, *The Pirates!* and, most recently, *Shaun The Sheep* is being made, there can be dozens of nationalities in Aardman's Bristol studio lot, all drawn from the best animators around the world.

But what's it like to work at the place where they make Wallace & Gromit? Does it feel like a job? And, most importantly, do they have a decent Wensleydale in the canteen? For those who've got a foot in the door, it sounds like a dream come true. That's why *FHM* is here.

To quote Liam Neeson's ultra-violent Bryan Mills in the *Taken* films, to work in Aardman's animation department, "a very

"LORD'S OFFICE IS FULL OF STUFF - THERE'S A MORPH BY HIS MAC, BOTTLES OF REAL ALE, AND A BAFTA LOOKING DOWN ON US FROM THE SHELF BEHIND"

particular set of skills" is required. You need to be an expert sculptor, an actor, an artist, an animator and sometimes a writer, too, all wrapped up in one multi-skilled package. Unlike Pixar or DreamWorks Animation, say, where characters are dreamed up on screens, Aardman's creations exist in the *real* world.

Up close, you can see the fingerprints and the imperfections. And, to this day, it's all still made of that same stuff that used to get

stuck to your shoe in the art room at school. Which, incidentally, is where the company grew from in the first place.

Peter Lord, the man who, with schoolmate Dave Sproxton, founded the studio in 1972, has a touch of the mad scientist about him, or at least the mad artist. His office is the penthouse spot in Aardman's upmarket facility on the Bristol harbourside, which replaced the company's previous home—a load of Portakabins stacked on top of each other—in 2009. And it's stuffed full of stuff.

There's a Morph (cheeky Plasticine chap beloved of '80s kids) by his iMac, bottles of real ale, a Bafta looking down from the shelf behind him and, key to all of it, a statue of Ray Harryhausen, the stop-motion pioneer behind the amazing creatures in classics such as 1963's *Jason And The Argonauts* and the original *Clash Of The Titans* from 1981. It was Harryhausen's work that drew Lord to modelling clay in the first place.

"Honestly, I can still recall it," he says. "There's not much I can remember in the cinema with that vividness, seeing these things and thinking, 'Oh my God! What is that? That's not possible!' Now in the days of CGI, no one thinks that, because everything's possible. Back then, I'd never seen a giant, or a walking skeleton or any of those things. You knew it wasn't real, it was an illusion, but it was a super-compelling illusion."

He fetches an old set of scales from a shelf and weighs out a lump of brown clay. Slowly but surely, as we talk over the next half an hour, it becomes a perfect Morph. It's miraculous to watch, particularly if you grew up watching the little fella on TV.

L

ord and Sproxton were never motivated to make money. "We were just young fellows who wanted to make a living," he says. Dave was laughed at by teachers when he said he wanted to go into the film business, whereas Peter was told by career advisers that he should be a town planner. Luckily, they both took no notice. Starting on their parents' kitchen tables in Bristol, they soon graduated to a back bedroom, then, when they went off to university, various rooms in various flats. Peter





DIGITAL GURU
DAN EFERGAN
WITH SOME OF
AARDMAN'S
GREATEST HITS

thinks it was all to do with timing and a bit of good luck.

"It was all highly speculative. Looking back, you think, 'Bloody hell, that was a strange decision.' Bristol wasn't an obvious place to be." But it was where the BBC were making *Vision On*, a show for deaf children that featured telly artist Tony Hart. Lord and Sproxton were "seriously skint" at that time and Aardman might have gone belly-up. Courting the Beeb with their now well-honed stop-motion skills, they created a claymation short for the show, which later paved the way for Morph's appearance on Hart's next show, *Take Hart*. The kids loved it, and Morph became a household name.

Advertising work came, too, as did music videos. Aardman worked on the incredible video for '80s star Peter Gabriel's *Sledgehammer* song, accompanying the music with stop-motion sequences of talking fruit, dancing chickens and flying fish. Go and watch it on YouTube—it's a work of chaotic genius.

The company's fortunes changed further when, in 1985, they met Nick Park, a student animator at the National Film and Television School who'd grown up watching Morph. They saw his potential and offered him a job as the "office dogsbody". In return, they said they'd help him finish his student film. It was called *A Grand Day Out* and starred his two latest creations: Wallace, a cheese-loving inventor with a 'coathanger' mouth, and Gromit, his whipsmart, silent dog.

Then Park's project *Creature Comforts*, where clay animals animated to real people's voices discussed what it was like living in a zoo, won the company an Oscar for Best Animated Short Film in 1990. Park went from dogsbody to the company's international star in five years, and 'rightly so', says Lord.

The Oscar win opened the door to the US and then the world. Park's *The Wrong Trousers*, *A Close Shave* and *The Curse Of The Were-Rabbit* all won Oscars, too. Aardman's bulging trophy cabinet also boasts three Emmys and 13 Baftas and, to date, its movies have grossed nearly \$1 billion (about £600 million) at the box office.

MAKING MORPH IN 30 MINUTES



B

ut it's not just animators who have flocked to the company. Helen Argo started out on reception 16 years ago. She's now an executive producer on short projects and adverts, a key chunk of the company's business outside films and TV. "There's never been a time when I think, 'Ugh, I don't want to go to work,'" she says, sitting in the company's plush screening room.

Aardman holds film and beer nights here for employees after work. The last one was a screening of Manga classic *Akira* (complete with servings of sushi) and next up is *Pulp Fiction* with burgers. It sometimes uses the massive screen for gaming nights, too.

"I don't want to sound too schmaltzy, but the work is fast-paced and there's nothing formulaic about it," says Argo. "It's got that really exciting nature. And there's the opportunity to work with different characters. You feel very loyal to it."

That loyalty hasn't been an obstacle to Aardman looking further afield for partners. A lucrative deal with Steven Spielberg's DreamWorks in 1997 resulted in *Chicken Run*, which featured Mel Gibson in the voice cast, and then *Flushed Away*, which aped Aardman's look, but in CGI. The latter movie failed to bring in sufficient cash and the companies parted ways. Then, with major studio Sony, Aardman made *Arthur Christmas* and *The Pirates! In An Adventure With Scientists*. Park's next project, *Early Man*, has just been announced.

Sitting with *FHM* in the Aardman canteen ruminating on this is Dan Efergan, a self-confessed 'futurist', who is among those driving the company forward. He's the group creative director of digital, the part of the business that is harnessing fans of Aardman's characters online and on other platforms. He's been at the company for eight years.

"We're trying to look for new homes for characters," he says. "To find out where else they can exist." Aardman has now started building its own app games featuring characters such as Shaun and Timmy, its two famous sheep.

"People probably think Aardman is like a shed, and there's a few people in it drinking tea," he says. "But it's not—it's a big building, although it's a very flat company. Everyone hangs out with everyone else. We've fought against going to London to stay in Bristol, and that suits our personality. We try to be true and say what we think, and not be pushed by trends. But I'm still a bit in awe. We had some stop-motion for the last *Shaun The Sheep* game we did. A guy came in to do it, and I later found out he was the inventor of *The Trap Door*. I was like, 'Oh my God.'"

Entering the facility's studio block is a

"THE SMELL OF PLASTICINE IN THE STUDIO BLOCK TAKES YOU RIGHT BACK TO BEING A KID AGAIN IN A SCHOOL ART CLASS."

feast for the senses. Firstly, it smells just like the art department at school and, though it seems like it's stating the obvious, the smell of Plasticine takes you right back to being a kid again.

In the workshop, there's a row of dismembered Wallace legs on a bench, and on the wall at the back of the room

are a selection of Angry Kid faces. Under the worktops are cupboards upon cupboards stuffed full with packets of modelling clay in all the colours you could imagine. Because the people who make it don't have a strict policy on colour accuracy—and Aardman very much does—it means that technicians have to mix clays together to get exactly the right colour for Morph, say, or Wallace's trousers, so that it's the same every time. Exactly the same. When they're making films, it means putting together vast quantities of the right coloured clay for all the characters in advance so that they never run out. Aardman uses a massive bubblegum mixer that was bought second-hand from Wrigley to do the job. Though it's really small in the grand scheme of things, it's a





**FROM PIRATES
TO CHICKENS,
AARDMAN'S
STUDIOS ARE
PLASTICINE
HEAVEN**

**"AARDMAN USES A
BUBBLEGUM MIXER
TO GET THE RIGHT
COLOUR OF CLAY—
ANOTHER THING
THAT MAKES IT
FEEL SO BRITISH"**

solution that somehow speaks volumes about what they do here. It's that sort of make-do attitude that makes Aardman feel so British. In the US, a

couple of million would probably have been dropped in development on a bespoke machine. But not here.

Aardman is the domain of people like Merlin Crossingham. He's been at the company for 20 years, and is now the creative director of *Wallace & Gromit* and the director of *Morph*, a new series of which was brought into being following a Kickstarter campaign for new one-minute shorts that raised more than £110,000 from fans. Crossingham grew up watching *Morph* on TV in the '80s, and now he's forming him out of

clay and writing the storyboards.

"We didn't even have a telly when I was young," he says. "I'd go around to a friend's house to see *Morph*. It was something you looked forward to." He stresses the importance of having to act, as well as sculpt and animate. "You've got to make this thing live. If you think of it as a blob of clay, it will always be a blob of clay. You have to get in there."

Starting at Aardman is difficult. Claymation animators are a small group within an already small group of those who work in the field of stop-motion. The work is also amazingly time-consuming, so patience is key. Output during film-making can be just a few seconds a day. Interestingly,



Crossingham says that an unusually high percentage of animators drive high-powered motorbikes, himself included. Make of that what you will.

"You have to learn when to stop," he says, adding that new animators tend to over-animate to start with until they get more nuanced in their work. "It's a confidence thing. I can draw, but I'm not a natural draughtsman. If I picture something in my head I can sculpt it in my hands, but great draughtsman can think of something and draw it. It flows out of their pencil. I can't do that. But I can do it with clay. We just think that way here."

Crossingham joined on an apprenticeship, after working as a runner on *A Close Shave*. "I don't really know what a real job is. You're constantly working with people who are really good at what they do here—it's great inspiration."

Why Aardman's creations have become so successful, Crossingham says, is 'the million-dollar question'. *Shaun The Sheep*, for example, thanks to the fact that it doesn't have to be redubbed in different languages, is sold to more than 170 countries. "We make things that make us laugh. We don't go out of our way to say it's handmade, but it clearly is. You can see the thumbprints on the characters. There's an honesty to the films we make, and I think audiences connect with that."

Since those days working on kitchen tables and back bedrooms, Aardman has become a very British success story, dallying with Hollywood, but ultimately preferring home and, in particular, Bristol.

"We demonstrated that other ways of working were possible," says Pete Lord as he fixes two white eyes on the perfect Morph he's just made. "We do things our own way, as far as we can. I'm slightly shying away from using 'eccentric'. But I think it's exactly the right word."

AARDMAN'S GREATEST HITS

WALLACE AND GROMIT

BORN: 1990

NEED TO KNOW: Wallace, originally voiced by Peter Sallis, is now voiced by Ben Whitehead

- Created by Nick Park, every Wallace and Gromit adventure has won a Bafta and been at least nominated for an Oscar.



SHAUN THE SHEEP

BORN: 1995

NEED TO KNOW: A spin-off from Wallace and Gromit, who first appeared in *A Close Shave*

- Now a hit in its own right, *Shaun The Sheep Movie* has raked in \$54 million at the box office (with a US release still to come) and 100% positive critic reviews on Rotten Tomatoes.

CREATURE COMFORTS

BORN: 1989

NEED TO KNOW: The short earned Nick Park his first Oscar

- Another Nick Park creation, *Creature Comforts* featured a selection of animals – including elderly tortoise Frank – voiced by ordinary members of the public talking about ordinary stuff.



MORPH

BORN: 1977

NEED TO KNOW: Morph is able to change shape – hence the name



- Like a Plasticine version of Bez from the Happy Mondays, Morph gets up to all sort of nonsense – often in the company of his paler mate Chas. Now remade for 2015.

CHICKEN RUN

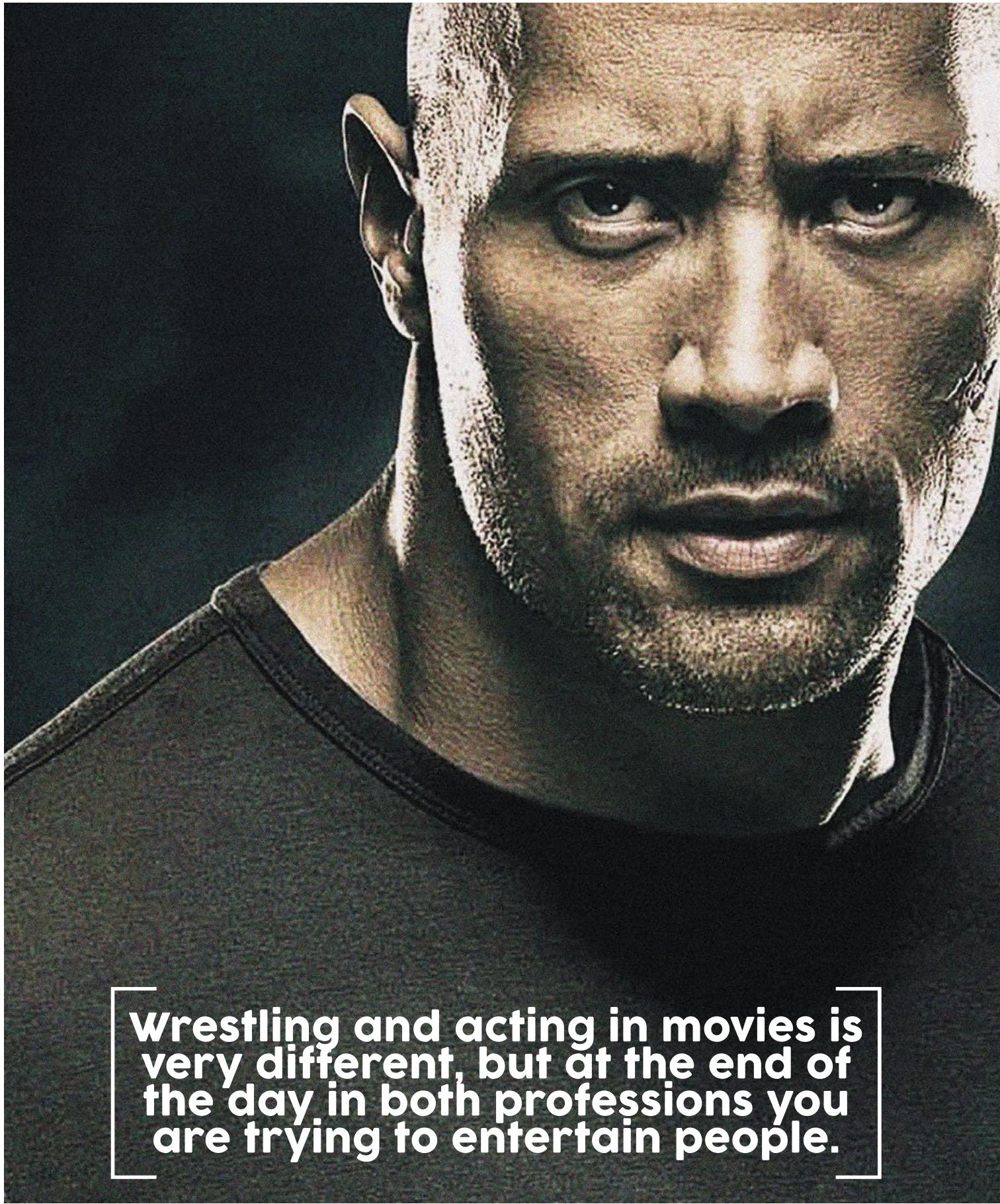
BORN: 2000

NEED TO KNOW: Chicken

Run grossed more than £147,000,000 on release

- Britain's most successful poultry-based film, *Chicken Run* follows a load of chickens trying to escape the confines of their POW camp-style farm.





Wrestling and acting in movies is very different, but at the end of the day in both professions you are trying to entertain people.

CAN YOU SMELL WHAT THE ROCK IS COOKING?

IF EVER A MAN LOOKED DIVINE WHEN BALD, IT HAD TO BE HIM. SMASHIN' GOOD LOOKS, BUILT LIKE A TANK AND BELONGING TO A FAMILY OF WRESTLERS, WE REALLY DON'T NEED TO SELL DWAYNE 'THE ROCK' JOHNSON! HE WAS BORN TO PLAY ONE-MAN ARMIES, GREEK GODS AND—AS PER HIS LATEST—SEARCH AND RESCUE HEROES. PUT YOUR HANDS TOGETHER FOR THE ONE-AND-ONLY... HANG ON, WE NEED A STANDING OVATION HERE!

INTERVIEW BY THOMAS UNSWORTH





FHM: Hey Dwayne, can anybody now smell what The Rock is cooking?

Dwayne Johnson: If it was up to The Rock, what I would be smelling is my girlfriend's brownies. They are the best things ever!

You have just shaken up the box office. Good feeling, isn't it?

It's a great feeling! I was so pleased with how *San Andreas* performed at the box office. Obviously from my own point of view I want to be in successful movies, but so many of the cast and crew worked so hard on that movie—it was a victory for everybody involved.

105 selfies in three minutes? Like, really?

(Laughs) Like, really! You know there was actually more than that, but a few were not counted because they were blurry. It's a proper Guinness World Record, you know?

After the lukewarm response early in your career, you chose to stick it through and that's paying off now. Taking success the same way as failure?

In this business you have to be prepared for critics. I guess in reality nothing really prepares you for it, but you have to know it can happen.

Grandfather, father, cousins, uncles and then

you. Wrestling seems to be a family business, is it not? So, how has been the shift from wrestling to Hollywood?

It sure is a family tradition. Obviously wrestling and acting in movies is very different, but at the end of the day in both professions you are trying to entertain people—and that's all I ever wanted to do, and I would like to do it for a lot longer yet.

Any childhood idol?

It might sound a little cheesy, but my Mom. She is about the strongest person I know. When I was a kid we were evicted from our apartment because she couldn't afford the \$180 rent, she has beaten lung cancer—the lady is an absolute inspiration.

Which kind of music do you like?

My workout playlist is a lot of old school Hip-Hop. A lot of Jay Z, quite a bit of 2Pac... that sort of thing.

Which is your favourite band?

Metallica are still rocking it after all these years, they are pretty unreal.

What is your exercise regime?

Obviously I stay in good shape, but so much of it depends on what movie role I am playing. You know when you are playing Hercules you need to look like Hercules, and that



**While I was training
for *Hercules* I was
eating 14 egg whites**



was some intense training, but obviously not every role I play requires that level of intensity.

**Diet? We are sure that
you're very particular
about what you eat as well.**

Yeah I do, especially when I am in intense training for a role. I am doing so much training I can eat six or even seven times a day, but pretty much all I put inside me is goodness. A lot of grilled chicken, a lot of cod, plenty of rice and eggs, spinach and other superfoods like that.

**What songs are on the
loop while you train in
the gym?**

There are so many and I am always changing it up so I don't get bored. If you're asking me what my most listened to track in the gym of all time is, I would probably have to guess *Hell 4 a Hustler* by 2Pac.

**How many egg whites can
you have at one go?**

While I was training for Hercules I was eating 14; that was pretty hardcore!

**And what about
pancakes? Are they your
favourite?**

You guys have done your research, I do love my pancakes—but if you are pushing me for my favourite, it would have to be my girlfriend's

brownies. On cheat days when I am giving myself a break from healthy eating, I could literally eat them all day long.

**Do you miss playing
football? Or do you still
play the beautiful game?**

I think anybody who has ever played it will always miss the competitiveness side of the game. But I don't miss putting my body through what I had to put it through.

**From a gruesome WWF to
an entertaining WWE to
mainstream Hollywood
now... what's next?**

I am loving the roles I am getting at the moment. I really respect every movie I get to make, I know how lucky I am getting to do something I love, and I know it doesn't always last forever. It's just about living in the moment.

**You have confirmed
Fast and Furious 8...
how is the franchise
still so popular?**

It was an easy decision for me to sign and yes, you're right about they still being so popular. If anything they are getting more popular as the franchise goes on—and we are still making great movies.



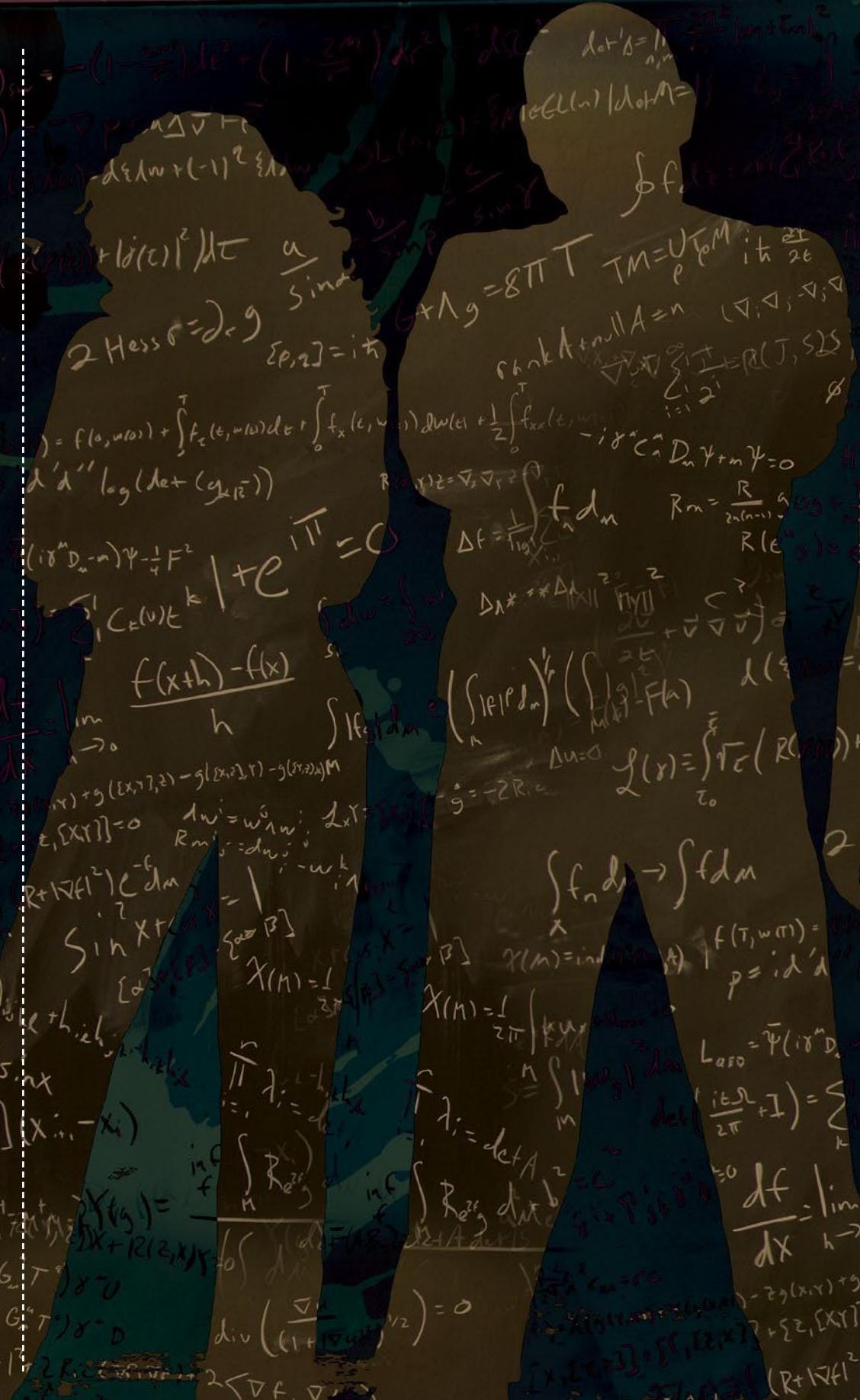
THANK YOU

It isn't that hard, folks. We have moved to a place in life that we have forgotten the basic manners of saying thank you or acknowledging a help from someone. There are times when even a thank you works wonders. If someone opens a door for you in a mall or imagine someone pulling you inside the metro when the gates are about to close, a thank you is all it takes to return the favour. 'Thanks!' See, how simple that was!



MANAGE TIME

As kids, we knew how to manage time between going to school, playing our favourite games with friends and family, doing our daily homework and watching TV as well. But as times have passed, things have become murkier. We are always in a hurry but never reach on time. Finishing an office project before deadline is nowhere in sight. So, where have all the skills gone? It's time we take things easy. Don't stress too much as things take time to shape up, pushing it won't make any difference. Take it easy, buddy!



learn THE BASICS

Times have changed and we have moved to bigger things in life but there are a few things that are meant to be done the way they were years ago. Do we need to go back to school to learn the basics? After all, fundamentals never change. **FHM** tells you why!



CHIVALRY

The code of conduct for the knights in 11th century was chivalry, but we have forgotten the art in this 21st century. The world is filled with late-night booty calls, infidelity

and a general 'hit it and split it' mentality. It comes as a relief to find someone with true gentleman traits. As kids, we knew how to behave. But things have changed... for

worse. It doesn't take a grand gesture or costly display of affection, it just takes a little bit of sincerity and genuine emotions to win hearts.



ADMIT YOUR MISTAKE, SAY SORRY

Just like thank you, sorry has also lost its meaning. People make mistakes, lash out in anger or say things they regret later. But when it comes to apologising, ego comes in between. Hey, man it's just a 5 letter word. And the relief you get after admitting to your mistakes is priceless.

EXCUSE ME

It's not ex-queez me, dude. It's excuse me! Distorting the word won't make you any cooler. Rather than pushing someone and making your way, say these two words and you'll be amazed to see how being polite works wonders. In this pacy world, everyone wants everything in that very moment. Asking for something is way better than snatching it, right?



LOVE THY... EVERYONE

We loved everyone and anyone who talked nicely to us in our childhood. There was no hatred or enmity against even the bad boys of our class. As we grew older, the feeling of competition and getting better than everyone took over. We started seeing the world as one big space where only the best survives. It's nothing like that. Yes, the best ones get things easily but hating them won't do any good to you. Rather, be affectionate and fortunes might just turn in your favour.



MORAL SCIENCE

Apart from being the saviour for many students in terms of a high-scoring subject, moral science was not just a subject, it was the way of life. Yes, we know getting up early, eating on time, respecting your elders and doing small things in right order doesn't sound that great but this is how it should be. Doing all the said stuff in the class-6 book that you still have it somewhere in the storeroom are the right ways of leading a successful life. It's time to mug up that book again.





A

psychologist, trained in Counselling and Therapeutic Skills, Harsheen Arora, got together with an old friend and photographer, Vipul Amar to create an out-of-the-box project, Stupid Eye. It's the culmination of photography and psychotherapy to enhance an individual's insight into their self. Something that started almost with a strike of a matchstick in the dark, this collaboration between two best friends created beautiful flames...

FHM: What exactly is Stupid Eye?

Harsheen: *Stupid Eye* is the culmination of photography with psychological therapeutic techniques to enhance an individual's insight into their self. The main aim is bridging the gap between an individual's real and ideal self; bringing them closer to self-actualization—using the tool of photography.

How does one benefit from this encounter of the real and ideal self?

Self-actualization is 'the desire to become more and more what one is, to become everything that one is capable of becoming.' (Maslow, 2006). It helps move from the real self, which is the way the individual is, to the ideal self—that which he wants to be.

How do you do that?

The process involves focusing on these two and capturing it in one

photograph. It includes group therapy, individual therapy and an elaborate photo-shoot. The resulting photograph is for the purpose of self-help post the therapeutic process.

Is the composition of these photographs pre-determined?

During the process of the photo-shoot coupled with therapeutic intervention these individuals explore and travel through several layers of their self. This is the time when Vipul has to capture that moment when they are being at their absolute true self—which means that while I make them travel, Vipul constantly has to alter his set and lighting to capture that perfect shot while being in sync with the individual. It is mandatory that the individual, Vipul and I be completely tuned in to



the same wavelength; hence assisting each other.

Psychology and art are closely related to each other, but usually by the way how art is interpreted. Your style is almost in sync with this process, but in reverse. Could you explain?

The art of photography involves creating imagery and visuals. Stupid Eye uses this art to custom design an image for participants, which reveals their innermost core. Visuals enhance

assimilation of information in the brain and provide the brain with something concrete to process, hence assisting therapy. Photography is used as an extension to therapy, so as to enhance and maintain therapeutic effectiveness.

How wide is the spectrum of people who come to you for help?

We have had clients from the age of 14 years to 50 years.



What expectations should one have about being helped with this project?

The idea is to capture the most honest true self of the individual into one photograph, which will work as a barometer for them in their life's journey.

How many sessions do you usually dedicate to one client?

It totally depends from client to client, based on their issues.





Do you, as a team, have conflicting opinions over how things ought to be taken ahead? Who wins the debate?

Of course! And we debate it out till each one of us is convinced. It's not about who wins the debate, it's about that everything about the process needs to be true to the individual.

Aren't clients ever finicky about their privacy in group sessions?

There are both options for clients. Some prefer a group setting as it makes them see that they are not alone. Others prefer to embark on this journey individually. Nothing is forced on them.

In India people associate going to a psychologist with being loony. Has the trend changed in any way?

There is definitely a shift in the positive direction in the recent times but we still have a long way to go.

How do you guys de-stress yourself?

Harsheen: I unwind either with a few close friends and music or spend a quiet evening with a book.

Vipul: For me, being on the creative side, working on the hobby takes me off the stress. Also many a time being partner to stress creates emotions with which I amplify the creation, and it works as a great de-stressor. However, taking a few days off to a quiet place or being with my close ones works for me equally well.

Doesn't it get depressing listening to people's problems for a major portion of your day?

Harsheen: Well, for me I have been doing it since 2008. I don't view it as listening to problems but rather finding a solution.

Vipul: I follow a time schedule and divide my hours in a way that my focus does not shift from understanding the other person to getting affected.

UPGRADE

THE DILEMMAS OF MAN

AM I TOO OVERDRESSED FOR THE POOL?

Avoid unwanted stares at the diving board—here's how not to overdo your poolside style



THE SUNNIES

An essential part of your summertime steeze—get the right ones and they can change your look instantly. Make sure you choose a pair that actually fits the size of your noggin.



THE SHOES

Don't fuss with buckles and Velcro around the pool. Instead slip into flip-flops or slides to ensure the easiest and most efficient trip to the bar on your bottomless-boozing all-inclusive odyssey.



THE VEST

Cracking the guns out and optimising tan time when you're making your way to the pool can only be a good thing. If you're not hench like The Hulk, just go for a thicker strap to trick the eye.



THE SWIMMERS

Swim shorts are an essential part of every man's pool attire, for obvious reasons. Boardies, mid-length and short shorts all get the pass from us—just step away from the budgie smugglers...

FOUR ESSENTIAL POOL MOVES

THE SUPERMAN

An efficient entry. Make sure there are no kids in your way.



THE PENCIL

One for the lolz, especially if you're above 6ft 5in.



THE CANNONBALL

A classic. Ensures you piss off everyone around the pool.



THE SWAN DIVE

Takes serious skill, but will gather a crowd if you make it.



Words: Daisy Deane. Photography: Dom Fleming, Marco Vittur. With thanks to Ushuaia Ibiza



WHAT:
Romano's
WHERE: JW
Marriott Hotel
Sahar, Mumbai
RATING: 8.5/10

LITTLE ITALY

Snug in a quiet corner of the Marriott property in Mumbai is an eatery that can be claimed by Italy in the name of all things holy. We thought they were being pompous in calling it an authentic Italian restaurant. But after we ate at Romano's, we think that it may have well been in the scenic bylanes of Florence...

JW Marriott Mumbai Sahar is a fairly new hotel close to the international terminal of the city's airport. Swish and stylish, with its art installations and intriguing lighting, it is for the corporate high-flier. And keeping their food preferences in mind, JW has an in-house Italian restaurant called Romano's. They invited, we obliged and thanked our (Roman) Gods for it.

AMBIENCE

Romano's is twin decked and has a high ceiling; immediately giving it an up-market feel. Seating is less of couches and more of leather chairs—but very comfortable. Look around and the framed bygone era pictures and retro table lamps lend a classic and timeless feel to the joint. A special mention of the servers. I have seldom come across a better informed staff that knows wines, food pairing this well. Two thumbs up! Must I mention the music as well? Much like the interiors and the food... mellow and unhurried.

FOOD & DRINK

Most names on the menu are a bit of tongue-twisters so stay with us on this one. They're Italian, what did you expect? Any help on the texture, flavour or heaviness of the dish and the staff is quick to doll out suggestions. The eatery has an exquisite array of categories and dishes under each. Go with a monstrous appetite and ample time on hand. In *hors d'oeuvre*, we ordered Polpette—chicken dumplings sautéed in tomato sauce; and were instantly hooked. Even the mushroom salad with roasted garlic was fresh and tickling the taste buds just right.

We hopped over soups and jumped right into the first course (*Primi Piatti*). We sincerely hope that you have a special section of your appetite kept aside just for this as there is a lot to pleasure you. Mushroom Risotto with sliced black truffle was splendid in every way. Not to leave the clichés out... Lasagna was the right temperature and the right flavour.

In the main course I jumped at what I

think is the make-or-break for any chef. The salmon preparation... because it's just so easy to get it wrong. I was mildly dismayed to be announced that there was no salmon that evening. Romano's, are you listening?

Pollo Alla Cacciatora, slow cooked chicken in fresh herbs, actually made me stop talking for a bit. It was perfect! Don't give it a miss, please.

Real quick on the dessert. Being a tiramisu lover, it was the first thing that I ordered; it's just so easy to have a dipstick on this yummy dish. It was so good that I could have had it as main course. Egg mousse was pretty good too, but we say stick to the tiramisu.

CONCLUSION

Romano's is the kind of place that is not for everybody for any meal. It's a slow romance that has to be appreciated with fine take on authentic Italian cuisine and oodles of time. Don't rush the experience, we say, and we are sure you will be hooked on.



upgrade

PRODUCT

CASE MATE

You can't live without your iPhone, and you can't live with it all cracked and smashed. Protect your techy best-pal in style...



upgrade

WHAT IS REALLY ON YOUR PHONE SCREEN?

A lot of germs, that's what. It turns out your mobile phone has 18 times more bacteria than a public toilet. Here's the breakdown...

FAECES

Yup, you may have poop on your phone, and it can give you worms, pinkeye and—in a circular kind of way—diarrhoea. Wash your hands after every loo trip.

E. COLI

Toilet texting is bad news—it can transfer E. coli (*the bad bacteria found in poop*) to your phone. And that can give you tapeworm, an XXL version of food poisoning.

STAPHY- LOCOCCUS

This bacteria can give you MRSA, a serious hospital disease that can cause blood poisoning. And death. Not cool.

INFLUENZA

Also known as the lurgy that gives you the dreaded flu.

ENTERO- BACTERIACEAE

While some of this bacterial family is found in the gut of humans, the worst culprits can cause salmonella poisoning, which means dehydration and chundering. And a week off work (so not all bad, hey).



STYLE MANTRAS

CHANGING FASHION STATEMENTS
LEAVING YOU BEWILDERED? THEN **FHM**
IS YOUR 'ONE-STOP-SHOP'. PRESENTING
ANITA DONGRE, OUR FASHION
EXPERT THIS MONTH, TO CLEAR ALL YOUR
STYLE DILEMMAS.



Style Fact

Anita Dongre has been in news for designing a stunning outfit for Shahid Kapoor's bride.

About Anita Dongre

Anita Dongre has been at the forefront of the Indian fashion scene for over 20 years. Her brands—AND, Global Desi, and her eponymous luxury label ANITA DONGRE are the hot favourites of Bollywood divas, and fashionistas. Celebrated for her commitment to reviving, sustaining and empowering traditional Indian crafts, she has crafted a folio of brand to meet the Indian consumers need for fashionable wear.

Ankur Banerjee, Noida:

I have recently purchased a casual pair of slip ons. How do I pair them up with formals so that it doesn't give off a casual demeanour?

Anita Dongre:

Suggestively, slip-on sneakers would give off a casual demeanour more often than not. Though however, if your shirt and trousers fit you well and have a hint of the colour similar to your slip-on sneakers it could work well for a formal look. So keep the rest of your look formal and uptight, grab a necktie if that's comfortable. Also remember you don't have to match colours, a good coordination could work wonderfully beautiful as well.

Ajay Singh, Lucknow:

Over the years my dressing has become very monotonous and I want to give myself a little makeover for office formals. I am 5'7 and of average built. Please suggest.

Anita Dongre: Assuming you're a guy that wears a shirt and trousers to office daily, here's what you can do—there's an array of different styles of collars that still maintain the shirt and give a formal look, e.g. the collarless shirt or the Chinese collar, these work very well with formal pants as well. You can start tailoring your outfits, an outfit that fits you well and you have produced yourself, makes a whole lot of difference to how different you feel. Add-ons like ties and jackets can instantly transform your look. Work your ties on Mondays and Tuesdays; a little dressiness always boosts some confidence.



STYLE ADVICE upgrade



Dhruv Gupta, Gurgaon: With my sister's wedding fast approaching, I am yet to decide my attire. While Kurtas are a good option, I do not want to don the same look for every ceremony. Please recommend some interesting options, other than Indian ethnics.

Anita Dongre: Considering you'll be playing such a huge role at the wedding you must definitely not be looking the same for every function. However though, I strongly advise you to maintain an underline of tradition throughout! Keep the only kurta look for smaller functions that are more towards the day. Add a sleeveless Nehru jacket over a kurta which will transform your look from semi-formal to formal. For the pronounced dancing nights, keep it to blazers that can be easily taken off.



Kirtiman Phadke, Mumbai: Is it mandatory to wear neck ties as a part of the formal look? I am not very fond of ties and the sweltering heat isn't helping. Can you suggest suit options without ties that look smart and elegant at the same time?

Anita Dongre: Although, neck ties do strikingly represent and complete a formal ensemble, an extremely smart button-down shirt with (well fitted) formal trousers and a jacket just by themselves if paired with the right shoes and belt can work beautifully as a formal ensemble. Ideally button your collar and it would do the trick.

Meher Ranjan, Pune: Plaid shirts seem to be in trend right now. What are the different ways of wearing plaid so that it doesn't look repetitive?

Anita Dongre: Perhaps a nice chequered shirt can be paired with a pair of torn jeans with or without a singlet for an uber-cool casual look. Wear them with a pair of chinos to have that slightly semi-casual appearance. Avoid pairing casual looking plaids with formal pants.



COLLARLESS SHIRTS ARE THE BEST CHOICE FOR THIS SEASON

Have a question for our expert panel? Send us your question to fhm@tcg.media



The scent of a man

Your choice of fragrance says a lot about you. Indeed, a good scent does leave its mark. Wondering what fragrances to opt for? Fret not... It's FHM to the rescue.

1 ACTIVE DAY

Imagine... The whiff of the ocean, refreshing notes of citrus. These fragrances cocoon you in an energetic vibe, keeping you fresh, active, happy (read flirty) and moving through the day. Our Recommendation—Moschino Forever Sailing, Lacoste L!VE, Issey Miyake Expeditions. Well, being the charming cool guy always has its brownie points, doesn't it?



GUESS NIGHT ACCESS

upgrade

PRADA LUNA
ROSSA EXTREME



2

BOYS' NIGHT OUT

AZZARO
CLUB MEN



Nothing beats the feeling of winding down by hanging out with the boys, chilling at your favourite sports bar and gulping down a couple of cold ones. Carry that feeling of nightlife with the fragrances of musk, with notes of spices giving the fragrance a vibrant and elegant feel. Our recommendation- Prada's Luna Rossa Extreme, Azzaro's Club Men, Karl Lagerfield's Pour Homme, Guess' Night Access.

KARL LAGERFIELD
- POUR HOMME

3 CIGARS & WHISKIES

Headed out for the big charity ball event or a business get together? What you need is to leave a lasting impression-a powerful, classy, Alpha male kind of a mark. A woody, aromatic fragrance with base notes of leather will leave people swooning. Our Recommendation- Guerlain's L'Homme Ideal, Valentino's Uomo, Mont Blanc's Emblem, Bulgari's Man In Black All Blacks Limited Edition.



4

DINNER DATE

Drive her crazy, make her go weak in the knees and don't let her go before breakfast with these strong, catchy and irresistible fragrances. Our recommendation- Paco Rabanne's Invictus, Paco Rabanne's Black XS Potion, Dunhill's Desire Black and Jimmy Choo's Man.

JIMMY CHOO
- MAN

PACO RABANNE
- BLACK XS POTION



upgrade

OBJECTS OF DESIRE

*If you've always dreamt of becoming the ultimate man, upgrade your aspirations NOW! Memorise everything on this list and work your smart-ass off to eventually own these...
objet du désir.*

HERMES LE FLANEUR SPORTIF D'HERMES CARBON BIKE.

This is the sportier version of the French luxury brand, Hermes' classically designed bikes. The light weight two-wheeler features a shock-absorbing monobloc frame, belt driven transmission, and bull leather on contact points. Choice of 8 or 11 gears and hydraulic disc brakes blend luxury with technology.

Price: ₹7 lac onwards



BIKE FACT

This one has been hand-made in France by TIME, a French manufacturer of bicycles and equipment.

**FRAZER AND HAWS WALL ART
TIMEPIECE
STARBURST**

This limited edition piece of art celebrates time in style and luxury. Styled with vintage Greco-Roman ceramic tiles and generous highlights of silver clad on hand carved teak wood, the timepiece exhibits soft pastel shades of blue, green, lilac and yellow.

Price: On request



**DECANTER SET
FROM ELITAIRE**

Made from the finest glass and lead-free crystal, these whisky decanters are designed with a legacy of quality and beauty. The set is embellished with ornaments of silver inspired by the classic style, the universal sign of luxury.

Price: ₹56,250



**CHOPARD SUPERFAST
CHRONO PORSCHE
919 EDITION**

Celebrating the partnership between Chopard and Porsche Motorsport in the FIA World Endurance Championship, the 919-piece limited edition is a sophisticated and beautiful chronograph. Its silver colour is reminiscent of the prestigious Porsche colour.

Price: On request

**THE MYSORE TABLE BY
FRAZER AND HAWS**

This stunning centerpiece, made in teak wood with its legs covered with rich floral carvings of silver, celebrates luxury combined with art. Inspired by the magnificent elephants of Mysore—symbolic of royal opulence—it signifies the great taste in India's grand history.

Price: ₹2,70,000



**S. T. DUPONT WHITE KNIGHT
WRITING KIT**

The limited edition writing kit from master lacquer and master goldsmiths, S. T. Dupont, contains an exquisite fountain pen, pen stand and paper cutter. It is inspired by the splendour and sophistication of the armour of the knights, as a decorative helmet glorifies the pen.

Price: On request



NOT ALL MEN, BUT MAYBE SOME

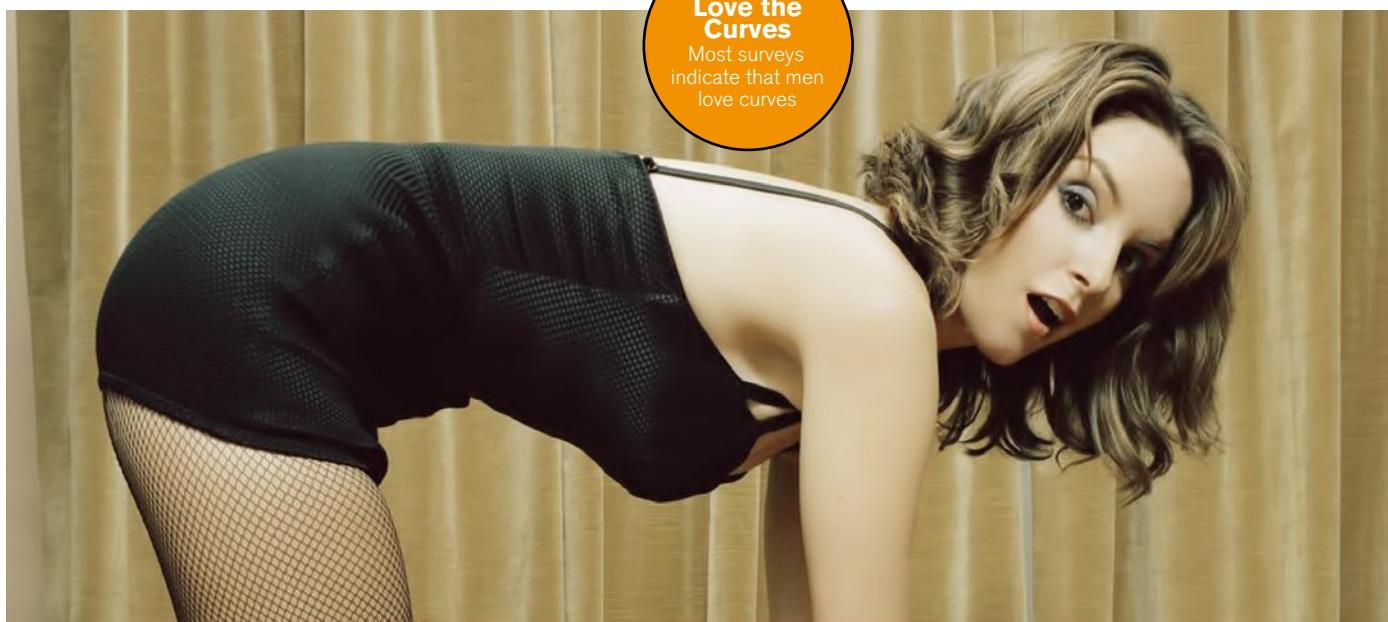
There's a generalisation that women make about all men being assholes, but that simplification isn't really spot-on. Men too are complex, delicate, simple people who want simple things. Of course, they're assholes, but most of the times they're more than that. Guys may not know exactly what they want—one day they want a very hot looking classy babe who's good in bed (this is mostly the case) and the other day they want a cool girl who they can introduce to their parents. But let's look past that and widen our knowledge about men, shall we?

1 "ALL MEN JUST WANT SEX"

You're living in 2015, this thought is kinda horse and buggy, outdated and primitive. No. All men don't want just sex. It's said that all men think of sex every 7 seconds. Men do think about sex more than women but what if every 7 seconds they're thinking about pizza (*but maybe they're sexualising it*). The point is, on most nights, when a man is

- walking behind a woman, the woman is probably thinking the man is looking at her butt—even though the man might not be interested at all. By all means, all women out there, protect yourselves from the creepy ones but you're kinda wrong when you say every man thinks of sex every 7 seconds. Maybe every 10 seconds but no.





2 "MEN WANT SKINNY WOMEN WITH BIG BOOBS"

To each his own, man. Preach that. God hasn't created a universally desirable woman... yet. A woman who hits the gym and takes care of her body automatically becomes

attractive, but some men are just not that into it. In fact, they're amused by the bizarre ways that women take up to lose weight. Most men don't care about that extra fries on your paunch, just be nice to

them and that'll do the trick. Men like a little booty to hold at night. On the contrary they do care if you look appealing in the facial department (to be as polite as possible), but, don't we all?

3 "ALL MEN ARE THE SAME"

Ladies, listen. Not all men wear their hearts on their sleeves so stop comparing them with your ex who you broke up with right before dancing to *Single Ladies* in the bar. Just because one douchebag hurt you, doesn't mean the next one will. Of course, they'll try to get into your pants all the time even if they're really good people. But you should know what you want before you get involved and just blame them for everything.



Similar, not Same
Well, now some traits are bound to stay common!



Hidden Intentions
Men may be nice with just no strings attached.



Weep Weep
If a crying man was a myth, unicorns would exist.

5 "REAL MEN DON'T CRY"

4 "NICE = SEX?"

Stop overthinking and cut them some slack! They're just trying to be nice. If a man wants to open the door for you, here's what you do-thank him and just walk through it. The entire 'I can open my own doors' feminism

drama isn't needed. In fact, it's polite even when women open doors for men or fellow women. It's common courtesy! Not a gimmick they throw to sleep with ya. It's just a door, not his goddamn pants!

Isn't it a little contradictory when people say 'real men don't cry' and then sulk about how men don't show emotions at all? Seriously, what do you want? Men are societally taught to be stoic and not show too many emotions. If there's a lizard or a cockroach in the room, a man walks in like a knight in armour and protects you. But guess what? Men are also humans! About being emotional, well, pretty sure many men cried when Dumbledore died, or when Jon Snow-oh, let's not even go there!

Words: Arunima Kaushik Sharma

POP GOES THE MYTH BUBBLE

There are stereotypes that we weave around the fairer sex. FHM lists the Top 5 prejudices that we've grown up listening to, and shows you how you may have been mistaken.

We love them, we chase them and we make a fool of ourselves in wooing them, but once the persuasion is complete we complain about them for being, well, them.

There's a lot that comprises the iceberg of a woman's personality that remains submerged under that nagging, choking and often claustrophobic exterior. Before you slide off your trolley and make plans to strangle her

and repeat the whole love-chase-hate bit for the 37th time, gawk at her real self with our list of myth-breakers about women.

Caution: Your girlfriend may be spooked with a sudden change in your attitude towards her.

Space Vampire!
A good point to ponder upon is why do women crave for it?



1 SHE'S KILLED MY SPACE

You're in your office working like a dog on a leash, and every 15 minutes your phone does a subdued vibrating stunt on your desk. You finally get the time to check and there are 15 messages from your lady, starting with a general forward and finally graduating to a police-custody-like reprimand to call back as soon as you

see them. This may sound like an attempt to kill your space, but matters usually reach such extremes due to our own ill-fated contribution. We are so used to making stories up before them that after a while even women know they're made up, thus earning the right to be nosy on our

whereabouts. Don't forget, it's not just women who are suckers for attention, and deep down we know it. We equally enjoy the attention we get, and it's good for a healthy ego. So, don't push things too hard. Who knows, she might just be checking on you while doing something of her own on the sly!

2 SHE'S A TOTAL CLEANLINESS FREAK

Remember the good ol' bachelor pad days? Bedsheets played more roles than what you paid for-a blanket, a hand-towel, or even a curtain. So did so many other things. But ever since she started visiting you, or you moved in with her, all those multi-tasking products lost their gleam of versatility. She tells you what shades match your walls (*what? right!*), she even asks you to tuck your shirt in and brush your teeth at night. A total controlling b****! But you've got to cut her some slack here. Mum did exactly these things to make sure we learned them by the time we were on our own. Too bad we didn't and the universe sent us a lover who tele-inherited mum's good sense in aesthetics. We could give this a shot, though. Making out in a clean apartment sounds more attractive than spilling last night's coffee in her hair during the foreplay. It's not freaky, it's just good sense.



Clean Deal
It's after all good sense to stay free from stains.



3 ALL SHE LOVES IS PINK

It's her birthday and you're foraging gift shops only for shades of pink. You finally find something really cute and get it wrapped. When she finally opens it, she gives the default plastic awww-reaction that makes you most content. But

is she really psyched? Chances are she's not. This is the longest standing myth that women prefer pink while men fall for blue, and for women, also the most irritating. On the contrary it's us who like to see them in

such baby shades that make them look cute and vulnerable. Most women, when shopping for themselves, go for more solid colours. Stop gifting her pink and you'll see her wardrobe look more like yours gradually.

4 NOT ANOTHER ROM-COM

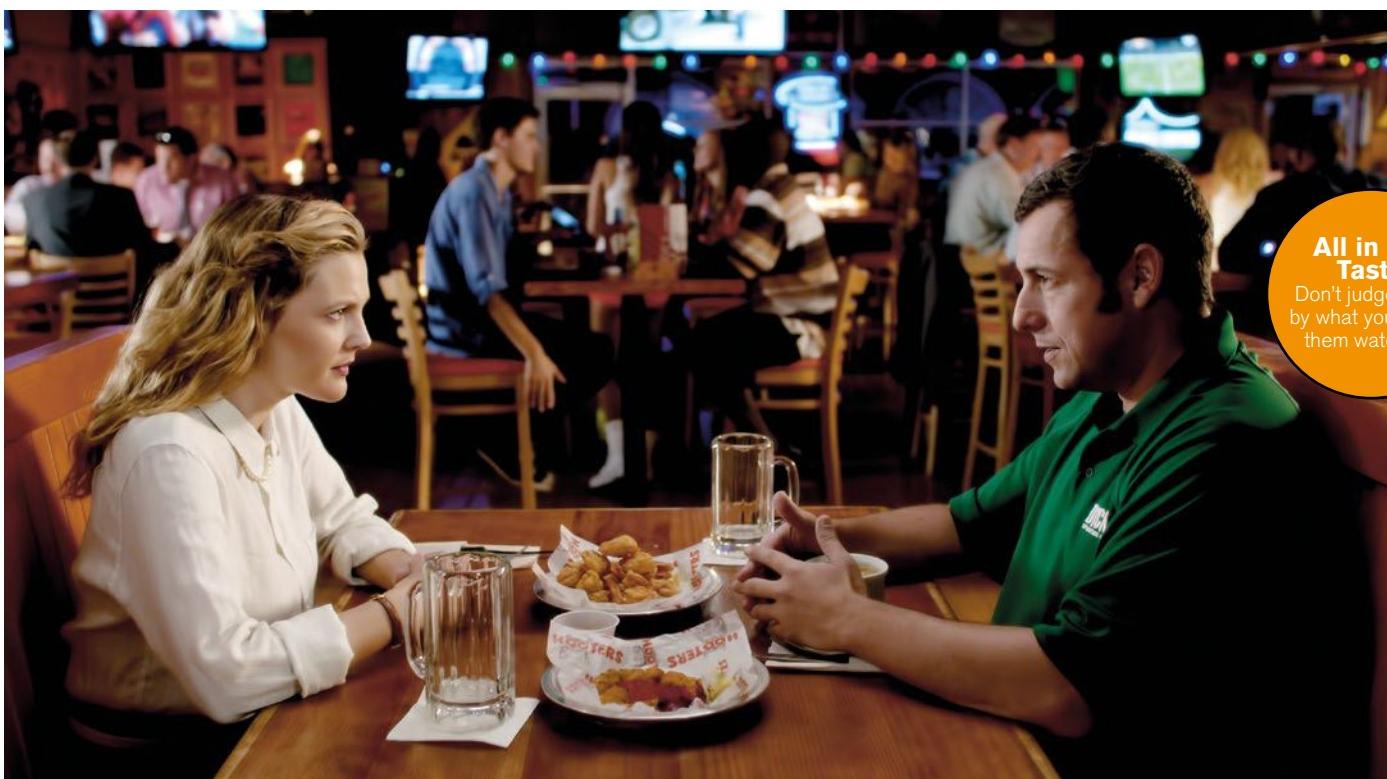
You caught her shedding tears after every alternate scene of *P.S. I Love You*, and her Facebook page says that she likes *Love Actually* and *You've Got Mail*. Now whenever there's an Adam Sandler film in theatres you pre-book your

tickets and make her watch it almost on the first day. And still whenever you guys have a fight she has the balls (ok, not balls... nerve) to say that you don't understand her! This time, while stocking her FB page, do check for the supposed

'guy' flicks that she's also liked and watched. Only not to be judged as a sissy yourself, you should stop taking her out only when rom-coms hit the screens. Take her to a sci-fi next and you'll be surprised with how she reacts.

5 NOW LET'S GET MARRIED

A lot of geniuses who don't crack the IAS exam often start teaching in coaching centres where they prepare you for one. But the same thing often fails miserably in the dating scene. It's very important who you take to be your guru in the matters of relationships. One aspect that smart-asses like to attribute to women is that even on their first date they picture the boys in their favourite groom-ready tux that they spotted in a magazine when they were just 12. Times have moved on since Jane Austen and our lady friends think way beyond marriage. So much so that you might just jeopardise a fun relationship by popping this question, just because you're under the impression that she's ready for marriage all the time, like you're for some action under the sheets.



Words: Siddharth M Joshi

More Bang (& OLUFSEN) FOR YOUR BUCK



The Danish audio firm has never been for average sound reproduction and visual mediocrity. However, with the H8 active noise cancelling headphones, they have outdone themselves... again!

When Peter Bang and Svend Olufsen put their heads together and contrived an alternating current radio, little had they envisioned their brand to become an industry benchmark for impeccable sound and gorgeous design. Be it their portable stereos, earphones, speakers, televisions... B&O is as much about brilliant audio engineering as it is about visual aesthetics. Luxury is embedded in its every inch, making owning a piece from the company's line-up a matter of pride. If you were waiting all this while, sceptical and hesitant, let this review be the last shove to get you to be a proud daddy to your own B&O baby. And what better note to start a long-lasting bond on than with H8 active noise cancelling Bluetooth headphones!

DESIGN

B&O H8 are headphones equivalent of Rolls Royce Wraith. The visual appeal stops you dead in your tracks before you can even experience the product. H8 boasts of a lavish yet solid all aluminium frame with a rich leather clad over-headband and leather bound ear-cups. I found the cups to fit snugly on my ears and did pretty well to cut down on noise naturally. Right cup has soft-touch buttons for volume, sift through songs, play-pause, etc. However, these are functional only in Bluetooth mode—which

OUR playlist for B&O H8



Comfortably Numb by Pink Floyd

"Laid back strumming will give you goose bumps."



Scream by Michael and Janet Jackson

"Hear the 'scream' like it was meant to be."



Troublemaker by Akon

"Bass thumping will make you gasp."



Nothing Else Matters by Metallica

"Hetfield's haunting voice will trouble you in your sleep."



was mildly annoying since innumerable products in the market at throwaway prices have this functionality for all things Apple. H8 also has an option to connect the cord, if your Bluetooth charge runs out on you between your favourite Led Zep track.

SOUND

This is singularly the main reason why you will buy H8 in the first place. The *sound*. These bad-boys deliver exemplary bass and will keep you thumping to your favourite dance tracks endlessly. My rule of thumb to test a pair of earphones/headphones is to listen to an MJ track. Highs and mids, if worth their price, will come alive. So it all came down to *Ghost* to make or break my view of H8. I kid you not... the song sounded like nothing I had heard before! There was so much in terms of background music that I had never heard before! Put on the active noise cancellation and you are moved to your own cocoon to listen to every last detail of every song. I am a big fan of Bose QC 20i when it comes to noise cancellation. But comparing Bose to B&O would be like pitting a

Beamer against an Aston Martin (or Rolls Royce)... just not fair! But here come a few concerns. And I wish that B&O would have addressed them practically. Weight distribution between the ear-cups and the head-band is uniform, making the H8 slip off your head every time you look down or up acutely. This pretty much rules out wearing them to your gym. Moreover, there is a constant feedback to the ear-cups when you are walking or hearing anyone take steps from an external source. Noisy songs cover this hiccup well but if you're trying to listen to KL Sehgal then this can be a let-down.

VERDICT

Bang & Olufsen H8 headphones are every bit elegant and plush as they are superb in music reproduction. They are expensive, mind you, but we say that they are a wise investment if you are looking to move up from being a layman music aficionado to a true-blue audiophile. Given the quality of these headphones, they could well become your family heirloom to be handed on to the next generation to enjoy.

Words: Ashish Pratap Singh

upgrade

ASUS X555LJ XX132H:

Big things don't come cheap...

There are no extraordinary elements attached to it, the new member of the Asus family comes with a simple design and heavy specs. We say, it's here to stay!

You'll have many colours to choose from!

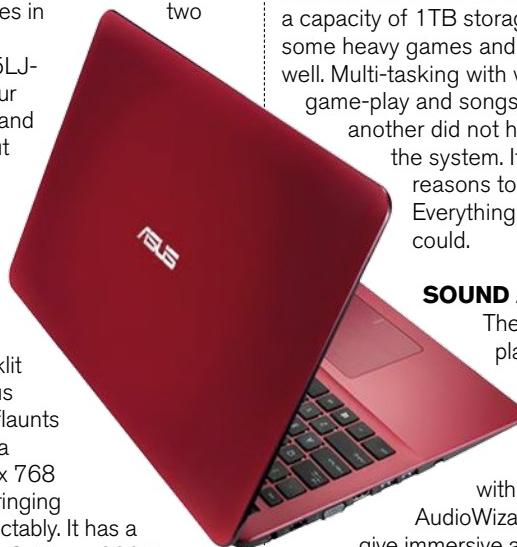




There are laptops that are no ground breakers but they just go with the flow. And with everyone bringing something unique with it, Asus has just stuck to the basics. There are no unique gaming buttons, there are no out-of-the-box design elements, the all new member of Asus fraternity comes in variants, X555LJ-XX177H and X555LJ-XX132H. We got our hands on the latter and boy, was it fun to put it through a grind! And it came out all guns blazing.

DISPLAY AND DESIGN

With a broad 15.6-inch LED backlit glare panel, the Asus X555LJ-XX132H flaunts an HD display with a resolution of 1366 x 768 pixels, capable of bringing images to life respectfully. It has a 2GB DDR3 NVIDIA GeForce 920M graphic processor. The laptop poses a waistline of 25.8mm and weighs around 2.3kg. Its Splendid Technology further enhances the experience with four different modes. Normal mode for daily work, Eye care, which gives special protection to your eyes, Vivid mode for intense image viewing and Manual mode for personalised settings. The front lid is set with a brown colour grid pattern, which, when one notices closely, actually looks good. The case of the keyboard is featured in silver colour and it yields slightly when exerted with pressure. It could have been built stronger perhaps. They still rely on unlit chiclet keyboard with subtly roughened keys with the surface yielding and affecting typing. Prolific typists may avoid the system. The ClickPad surface has a lot of area to use multi-touch gestures, which saves a lot of time in surfing but it also affects writing, with the mouse pointer going in different directions at times.



PROCESSOR, OS AND STORAGE

The Asus X555LJ-XX132H has an Intel Core i5-5200U processor of 5th generation with ability to generate a speed of 2.2GHz. The processor is coupled with a 8GB DDR3 RAM. The laptop is pre-equipped with Window 8.1 OS of 64-bit architecture. With a capacity of 1TB storage space, we filled in some heavy games and it responded very well. Multi-tasking with web-browsing, game-play and songs repeating one after another did not have any effect on the system. It doesn't give much reasons to complain. Everything ran as smooth as it could.

SOUND AND BATTERY

The speakers find their place under the casing and produce an acceptable level of sound. The laptop is enhanced with SonicMaster and AudioWizard technology, which give immersive and crystal clear sound. Music, Movie, Gaming and Speech modes are meant for different situations that deliver outstanding user experience.

The laptop has been fuelled by a 37WHR 2-cell Li-po battery that can carry out different applications for sustained amounts of time. The system ran for about 4-5 hours straight with multiple applications running at the same time. You don't need to carry the charger everywhere. A thumbs up for that, Asus!

VERDICT

The price tag of ₹48,999, which has come with the machine, won't make it a run away hit in the market. The XXLJ 132H will only be available in Asus exclusive stores! Big storage capacity, graphics dedicated for both movies and games and a powerful processor with an extendable RAM means that you can club together all your work and gaming fantasies with this machine!

COMPARE THESE LAPTOPS IN THE SAME PRICE RANGE



HP 15-ac052TX

Ram: 8 GB; Processor: Intel Core i5 5th Gen Processor Speed: 2.2 GHz with 2.7 GHz Turbo Boost; Screen size: 15.6 inches



Dell Inspiron 15 3537

Ram: 6 GB; Processor: Intel Core i5 4th Gen Processor Speed: 1.6 GHz Screen size: 15.6 inches



Acer Aspire E5 571G

Ram: 4 GB; Processor: Intel Core i3 4th Gen Processor Speed: 1.7 GHz Screen size: 15.6 inches



LENOVO IDEAPAD FLEX 14

Ram: 4 GB; Processor: Intel Core i5 4th Gen Processor Speed: 1.6 GHz with 2.6 GHz Turbo Boost; Screen size: 14 inches



FHM Girlfriend --- **LAURA**

How would men stand a chance of charming a Brazilian hottie? We put that very question to Laura, the beer-drinking, wanderlusting bookworm.

Occupation: Model
Location: Brasília, Brazil
Age: 23
Instagram: @LauraHabckost
Likes: Beer, volleyball and Harry Potter books

FHM: Brazilian women are often heralded as the hottest in the world. What do you say to that?

Laura: I don't really understand it. Since living in Europe, I've heard it a lot. People say we have this particular smell of our skin and that we're fiery; not in a jealous way, but in a passionate one.

Do you have a favourite Brazilian woman?

I like Izabel Goulart. She has the perfect body, better than Adriana Lima and Gisele.

So what is the least Brazilian thing about you then?

I love German deep house DJs, especially Fritz Kalkbrenner. And I love beer in large quantities.

As in, you love beer a lot or you drink lots of beer?

At a party, I can drink about 20 beers. Heineken is my favourite, but I really love Polander too.

Alright. That's totally unexpected. So what's the most Brazilian thing about you?

I don't know. I used to play a lot of volleyball. I was on the school team and we toured a lot. In fact, I used to play everything. I've done ballet, judo, karate, boxing, soccer. I really loved soccer but I was so bad at it. Now I do lots of classes instead like yoga and pilates.

And you've got a degree too, right?

I did Fashion Business in Milan and graduated last year. Then I did a one-year internship with a designer. My friends back home wanted to settle down and be lawyers, but I really wanted to travel the world and work in fashion. I recently decided to start travelling again for a while.

Do you know what you want to do for work?

In the future, I want to be a buyer. Maybe for Harrods or Selfridges. »



Jay Mawson



Ally Sinyard

**Isn't that what Rachel does in Friends? Shops for a living?**

Yeah, but it's a big responsibility. It's a huge budget and if you don't sell the store image, it's your fault.

Sounds like a lot of pressure...

I like it. I used to model collections for buyers in Milan, so that's how I got into the idea of it. You get to go to all the fashion shows and travel a lot too, which is my favourite thing. I've lived in Milan,

Paris, Athens and now London.

How do you keep from going mad on long journeys?

I read a lot, probably a book a week, and I'll read each book maybe 12 times. I never watch TV.

What's your favourite book?

I love Harry Potter. That was my childhood. These days, I prefer historical romances.

How important is it for a guy you**like to be into books as well?**

It's not. I like a guy to be cultured but when it comes down to it, you have to accept a person for who he is.

Do you have any dating tips for us guys?

Men are generally cute and polite, but at times can be really shy. I'm used to Italians and Brazilians, who're really bold. Just give me a smile or a compliment; it's nice for a girl to feel pretty sometimes.

⌚ Laura's life this month

"Do my hair look messy?"



A good day to tan, right!



Oh! That time of the day...



Say cheese!

Quick-fire round

Beanie or bikini?

Bikini.

Dance music or books?

Books.

Nuts or berries?

Nuts.

Muse or museums?

Muse.

Queues or cucumbers?

Cucumbers.

Netflix or pick'n'mix?

Netflix.

Sofa or gym?

Gym.

Heels or trainers?

Trainers.

Twitter or Instagram?

Instagram.

Shorts or skirts?

Skirts. Long skirts.



THE FINAL COUNTDOWN

NINE AMAZING THINGS GIRLS DO BUT NO MAN SHOULD ATTEMPT



09

WATCH THE FILM MAGIC MIKE

Yes, it's quite adorable how excited your girlfriend and all her mates get about Channing Tatum's bumcheeks, but don't ever attempt to get in on the fun yourself. You'll just spend the rest of the evening staring at your own naked body in the mirror as you weep and eat Nutella out of the jar.

08 FLIRT YOUR WAY OUT OF A TRICKY SITUATION

The flutter of your girlfriend's eyelids can guarantee drinks after last orders and leniency from even the most Stalin-like of traffic wardens. Yet when you try to flirt your way through the barriers after 'losing' your train ticket, you're carted off by British Transport Police quicker than you can say 'restraining order'. Go figure!

07 WEAR 'SEXY' UNDIES

Girls have got the whole sexy underwear thing covered, so you can retire your 'lucky' pulling pants and chuck away those novelty 'May contain nuts' boxers while you're at it. Though you can keep the Homer Simpson tie: a vital weapon in any job hunter's armoury.

06 CUT YOUR OWN HAIR

You'll either end up stabbing yourself in the head or looking like the fella from The Hills Have Eyes if you try to give your own barnet a trim. Ladyfolk manage such tasks without professionals, YouTube tutorials or trips to A&E.

05 GET NAKED IN FRONT OF YOUR MATES

Whereas girls can happily parade around their pals in the buff ("Jess, your abs are amazing – is it the Zumba classes?") there's no panic like the horror men experience when the towel slips in the changing rooms.

04 SEND NSFW PICS OF YOURSELF

As the more beautiful sex,

women were always going to have a handle on the whole 'selfie' thing. Notice how when a celeb lady's selfies leak, they always look incredible. Yet when it's a bloke, it's normally some pot-bellied politician with his knob limply dangling like an old party balloon.

03 TWERK

Only 50 per cent of the population can get away with grinding their bottoms to the delight of others. The other half just manage to look like they're trying to shift a bad case of worms. Guess which one you'd be?

02 WAX ANYTHING

Not only is it more painful than a million vinegar-tainted paper cuts, but just pause for a moment to think how odd you'd look without hairy legs. Yes, give your bush the odd trim, but stop short of looking like a blow-up sex doll or, even worse, a professional cyclist.

01 WEAR A FLASHER'S MAC

When women do the whole 'wearing nothing but undies under a coat' thing, it's seen as naughty and kinky. Yet when a fella does it and takes a shortcut through the bushes in the park, the police are called. It's political correctness gone mad!

See
you next
month...

Words: Simon Cunningham.

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